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“SDG15- Life On Land”

15.2 Supporting land ecosystems through education

15.2.1 Events about sustainable use of land

The policy of Shatt Al-Arab University College regarding events related to sustainable land use includes guidance and awareness in preserving land and improving its sustainable use. This can be achieved by performing several procedures, including:

Improving land management: Land management can be improved by participating in submitting proposals to improve laws and regulations and providing financial and technical support to farmers on the lands.

Improving agricultural use: This can be achieved by offering research projects in improving water and soil management techniques for farmers and techniques that contribute to solving their problems.

Protecting wild lands: Awareness through seminars and publications (and guidance for them), which contribute to raising awareness about preserving wild lands and thus helping to preserve biodiversity and important ecological services.

Accordingly, Shatt Al-Arab University College organized in cooperation with the **Planting and Green Belts Committee / Basra Governorate**, a planting campaign for the university campus in cooperation with students of Shatt Al-Arab University College.



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15.2.2 Sustainably farmed food on campus

Shatt Al-Arab University College seeks to contribute to protecting and preserving wild ecosystems and enhancing biological diversity, which includes wetlands and agricultural lands. To achieve this goal, Shatt Al-Arab University College developed a proposal for sustainable agricultural policies to preserve ecosystems and biodiversity. The following are some policies that can be followed to achieve sustainable agriculture on campus in a sustainable manner within the college:

Taking care of the soil: We have to take care of the soil and conserve it by using sustainable agricultural techniques such as organic farming and keeping the soil covered.



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings



Taking care of water: We must conserve water and use it sustainably by using modern technologies such as drip irrigation and managing water resources effectively such as collecting, using and preserving rainwater.

Preserving biodiversity: We must preserve biodiversity on campus by using sustainable agricultural techniques, enhancing biodiversity by planting various plants and trees, and providing a suitable environment for animals, including birds.

Awareness to reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers: We must reduce the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers and use sustainable agricultural techniques such as organic agriculture and biorecycling of agricultural and animal waste.

Providing support to farmers: We must provide support to farmers by holding agricultural workshops in the college and hosting agricultural experts to enhance their ability to face various challenges and achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Cooperation and coordination: We must cooperate and coordinate between stakeholders, farmers, landowners, and the local community to achieve sustainable agriculture.

15.2.3 Maintain and extend current ecosystems' biodiversity

Shatt Al-Arab University College conducted a dialogue workshop in the hall of the General Company for Iraqi Ports on 4/18/2022, with the participation of members of the Environment and Women's Empowerment Departments in the Iraqi Ports and Marine Rescue Company, the Company's Legal Affairs Department, the Basra Environment Directorate, and a number of employees and representatives of a number of local civil society organizations, international and private sector maritime companies and specialized academic figures from the University of Basra. In addition to the workshop topics, the issue of marine environmental pollution was addressed, the most important international maritime agreements and international maritime law, what are Iraq's obligations in this field within territorial waters, what are the obligations of neighboring countries and countries bordering Iraq, and ways of regional cooperation between them to protect the marine and land environment and joint work to achieve development goals. Relevant sustainable development, protecting biodiversity and reducing wrongful practices committed against the marine and land environment.



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15.2.4 Educational programmes on ecosystems

Shatt Al-Arab University College has set a group of goals for sustainable development in ecosystems, desertification, and biodiversity. This can be achieved through various educational programs, which can be implemented on university campuses, as the impact of human activity leads to the degradation of these wild ecosystems and leads to the loss of biodiversity.

Sustainable Development Goal 15 can be achieved through educational programs that include:

Holding scientific symposiums on wild ecosystems and biodiversity: These symposia can include supporting research that affects the study of human activity on these species.

Holding scientific seminars on the impact of desertification and the removal of palm trees in Basra on wild ecosystems: and how to combat it. And the causes of desertification.



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15.2.5 Sustainable management of land for agriculture and tourism (educational outreach)

Shatt Al-Arab University College has set a group of goals in order to preserve the agricultural environment and natural resources, reduce the use of chemicals, and provide better quality food.

Providing community awareness programs on sustainable land management for agriculture and tourism helps improve people's environmental awareness and increase their understanding of the environmental problems surrounding them. These programs can be offered on campus or in local communities. Different means can be used to deliver information, such as brochures, workshops, lectures, and educational videos.

Climate-smart soil and land management practices can be adopted to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation. These practices include the use of advanced agricultural techniques on campus and the preservation of biodiversity in the soil and water. These practices can help improve land productivity, improve plant quality, reduce the use of chemicals and water, and improve the conservation of natural resources.

15.3.1 Sustainable use, conservation and restoration of land (policy)

Shatt Al-Arab University College is committed to its role in contributing to the sustainable use, conservation and restoration (reclamation) of the land. This policy aims to ensure the preservation of the region's terrestrial ecosystems, particularly palms and drylands. Shatt Al-Arab University College is an important partner in achieving sustainable development and maintaining the environmental situation in Iraq - Basra, and contributing to solving challenges such as the scarcity of clean water, energy, and food, climate change and extreme weather events, declining biodiversity, and food insecurity.

Objectives:

- Promoting environmental awareness and environmental education among university members, students and the community.
- Preserving palm trees and dry lands, promoting their use, and raising awareness about increasing palm cultivation, which forms part of the cultural and natural heritage of Basra.
- Promoting the use of clean and sustainable technology in university activities, which contributes to reducing resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and increasing



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recycling and innovation (such as using solar cells as an alternative to fossil fuels to generate electricity).

- Enhancing cooperation with institutions and stakeholders in Basra to achieve common goals of preserving wild ecosystems, such as cooperation with the College of Agriculture/University of Basra and the Basra Governorate Office.

Policies:

• Preserving palm trees and dry lands:

- Promoting awareness of the importance of palm trees and dry lands and protecting them from environmental and commercial threats.
- Develop strategies to preserve palms and drylands and promote their sustainable use.
- Encouraging scientific research and technological development to support efforts made to preserve palm trees and drylands.

• Environmental awareness and education:

- Developing educational and training programs for students and university members on sustainability and preservation of wild ecosystems.
- Organizing events, seminars and workshops to increase environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices.
- Strengthening cooperation with schools and other educational institutions to promote environmental education.

• Scientific research and innovation:

- Supporting scientific research in the field of preserving wild ecosystems and developing sustainable practices.
- Encouraging scientific and research cooperation with external parties to exchange knowledge and experiences in the field of environmental sustainability.
- Providing the necessary resources and facilities to support scientific research and innovation in the field of environment and sustainability.

• Clean and sustainable technology:

- Encouraging the use of clean and sustainable technology in university activities such as waste management, energy and water consumption.



- Develop strategies to reduce the environmental impact of university activities and improve environmental efficiency.
- Encouraging research and innovation in the field of environmental technology and employing it in university activities.
- **Cooperation and partnership:**
 - Enhancing cooperation with institutions and stakeholders in the region to achieve common goals of preserving wild ecosystems.
 - Exchanging knowledge and experiences with relevant authorities and enhancing cooperation in the field of research, development and training.

15.3.2 Monitoring IUCN and other conservation species (policies)

Shatt Al-Arab University College is considered one of the most prominent educational institutions in Iraq, and plays an important role in qualifying human resources in various fields. Among the primary responsibilities of the college is to promote environmental awareness and preserve the country's biodiversity. Iraq is a region of enormous biological diversity, as it includes many rare and endangered species. Therefore, this policy comes to guide efforts aimed at protecting and preserving biodiversity within the college campus and enhancing awareness of its importance among students and faculty members.

Political principle:

This principle aims to implement a comprehensive policy for preserving biological diversity at Shatt Al-Arab University College, by striving to achieve the following goals:

- Preserving natural biodiversity within the college campus and protecting endangered species.
- Promote awareness of the importance of biodiversity among students, faculty and staff.
- Providing a suitable environment to enhance and develop biological diversity on the college campus.

Policy objectives:

- Implement a comprehensive biodiversity survey on the college campus to identify existing species, assess their condition, and learn about the threats they face.
- Develop and implement strategies to protect threatened species and preserve their habitats on the college campus.



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- Strengthening cooperation with stakeholders, including governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations, to enhance biodiversity conservation efforts in Iraq.
- Organizing awareness-raising events and activities to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and promote the effective participation of students and faculty members.
- Managing green spaces and natural resources on college campuses in sustainable ways that enhance biodiversity and achieve environmental sustainability.
- Develop a periodic monitoring system to evaluate the impact of policy and update it as needed.

15.3.4 Alien species impact reduction (policies)

To reduce the impact of alien species on wildlife, some measures can be taken at the department level of Shatt Al-Arab University College within the policies of the Sustainable Development Goals, such as:

- **Prevention:** By implementing strict measures to prevent the entry or spread of alien species in the region.
- **Detection and monitoring:** by conducting periodic surveys to detect the presence of any alien species in the area, submitting reports about them to the competent authorities, and conducting studies on their impact on the environment.
- **Removal and management:** By taking effective measures to remove or control alien species that pose a threat to wildlife, such as using mechanical, chemical or biological methods.
- **Education and awareness:** by organizing campaigns, workshops, and lectures to raise awareness of the danger of alien species and how to prevent and combat them, and encouraging community participation in these efforts.

15.4.1 Water discharge guidelines and standards

Purpose and objectives:

This policy aims to ensure the quality of water at the university and its drainage in a sustainable manner and in compliance with international standards, with the aim of protecting ecosystems, preserving wildlife and human health and well-being. The policy targets all members of the university community and university employees.

Principles and values:



- **Sustainability:** Dealing with water sustainably, preserving its natural sources for current and future generations, and reducing its pollutants.
- **Quality:** Ensuring the quality of water used at the university and its disposal in accordance with international standards.
- **Transparency:** publishing information related to water quality, drainage and monitoring procedures in a transparent and understandable manner for all.
- **Awareness:** Educating members of the university community about the importance of water conservation and proper management.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- Appointing an official specialized in water issues, drainage, and monitoring its quality.
- Determine the necessary procedures and standards to ensure water quality and sustainable drainage.
- Providing training and awareness for university employees on best practices in water use and disposal.

15.4.2 Policy on plastic waste reduction

1. Awareness and education: Providing educational programs and awareness campaigns for students and employees about the negative impact of plastic on the environment and the importance of disposing of it correctly.

2. Reducing use: Encouraging the use of environmental alternatives to plastic in the college and community, such as paper or glass cups and plates, and avoiding the use of perishable plastic bags.

3. Recycling: Providing an effective recycling system within the university and educating the university community on how to sort recyclable plastic waste.

4. Cooperation with supplier companies: Communicate with suppliers to encourage them to use environmentally friendly packaging and provide sustainable alternative solutions to plastic products.

5. Research and innovation: Encouraging new technological research and innovations to develop effective means of disposing of plastic waste, such as biodegradation or renewable plastic.

6. Sustainable partnerships: Collaborate with relevant organizations and other institutions to develop joint initiatives to reduce plastic waste and promote sustainable development in society.



Times Higher Education
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15.4.3 Policy on hazardous waste disposal

- 1. Establishing a waste management system:** developing a policy and program aimed at disposing of hazardous waste in a safe and responsible manner. This includes identifying and classifying hazardous waste and determining appropriate disposal methods.
- 2. Educating students, employees and workers:** Educating the university community about the importance of correct disposal of hazardous waste and providing information regarding waste collection sites and appropriate methods for disposal.
- 3. Conversion and recycling:** Searching for opportunities to convert some hazardous waste into other valuable materials or recycle them in environmentally friendly ways, which reduces the need for their final disposal.
- 4. Training and consultation:** Providing continuous training to workers on how to deal with hazardous waste safely in accordance with local and international legislation and regulations. As well as consultation and support to the university regarding the hazardous waste disposal policy.
- 5. Verification and review:** Regularly evaluate and monitor the implementation of the hazardous waste disposal policy and verify the availability of the necessary equipment and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.