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Policy on Alien Species Impact Reduction

Registrar

SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY

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S. No.	Particulars	Description
1	Policy Number	Ref-U-01/SVSU/2025/1401(i) Date-14.01.2025
2	Policy Statement	Swami Vivekanand Subharti University recognizes the importance of protecting native biodiversity, maintaining ecological balance, and preventing the adverse impacts of alien and invasive species on natural ecosystems. As an educational and research institution, the University is committed to contributing to the identification, monitoring, management, and reduction of the impacts of invasive alien species through academic programmes, interdisciplinary research, campus-based environmental initiatives, student engagement, and community outreach. The University shall promote awareness, scientific knowledge, and responsible ecological management practices through research projects,. biodiversity assessments, training programmes, and collaborations with government agencies, environmental organisations, research institutions, and local communities. This Policy establishes an institutional framework for integrating invasive alien species management and biodiversity protection into the University's academic, research, administrative, operational, and outreach activities, thereby contributing to the conservation of native ecosystems and the achievement of relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
3	Scope of the Policy	This Policy shall apply to all relevant academic, research, administrative, operational, and outreach activities of Swami Vivekanand Subharti University that contribute to the prevention, identification, monitoring, and management of alien and invasive species. The scope shall include: • University campus areas, including gardens, agricultural and horticultural fields, vacant land, roadsides, landscaped areas, and other green spaces. • Academic programmes, research projects, biodiversity assessments, and student activities related to alien and invasive species management. • Campus landscaping, plantation, gardening, and ecological management practices to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. • Awareness programmes, training, and capacity-building initiatives for students, faculty, staff, and local and regional communities. • Collaborations with government agencies, research institutions, environmental organisations, and local communities for invasive species management and biodiversity conservation.
4	Policy Status	Original
5	Originated By	Department of Life Science and Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Science and University Environment Committee
6	Reviewed By	Registrar
7	Effective Date of Policy	14.01.2025
8	Approving Authority	Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
9	Policy Review Date	

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1. Preamble:

Swami Vivekanand Subharti University recognizes the importance of protecting native biodiversity, maintaining ecological balance, and promoting environmental sustainability. As an educational and research institution, the University is committed to contributing to the prevention, monitoring, and management of alien and invasive species through its academic, research, administrative, operational, and community outreach activities.

The University acknowledges that the introduction and spread of alien and invasive species can adversely affect native vegetation, agricultural and horticultural crops, soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem functioning. Such species may compete with native flora and fauna for essential resources and threaten the ecological balance of natural and managed environments.

The University is committed to promoting awareness, scientific research, biodiversity assessments, and environmentally responsible management practices to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien species. Through academic programmes, student participation, research initiatives, training, and collaborations with government agencies, environmental organisations, research institutions, and local and regional communities, the University seeks to strengthen knowledge and collective action for invasive species management.

This Policy establishes an institutional framework for integrating the identification, prevention, monitoring, control, and management of alien and invasive species into the University's academic, research, campus management, and outreach activities, thereby contributing to native biodiversity conservation and the achievement of relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish an institutional framework through which Swami Vivekanand Subharti University contributes to the prevention, monitoring, and reduction of the ecological impacts of alien and invasive species through its academic, research, administrative, operational, and community outreach activities. The specific objectives are to:

2.1. Promote awareness and understanding of alien and invasive species, their ecological impacts, and appropriate management practices through academic programmes and educational initiatives.

2.2. Encourage interdisciplinary research, biodiversity assessments, student projects, and innovation focusing on the identification, monitoring, and management of invasive alien species.

2.3. Promote early detection, regular monitoring, and environmentally responsible management of invasive species within University campus areas.

2.4. Encourage the protection and conservation of native plant species, campus biodiversity, agricultural and horticultural areas, and natural habitats.

2.5. Integrate invasive species prevention and management practices into campus landscaping, plantation, gardening, and environmental management activities.

2.6. Promote environmentally responsible methods for controlling and removing invasive species, including appropriate disposal of invasive weeds, seeds, and other propagating materials.

2.7. Strengthen student participation, faculty engagement, and community awareness through workshops, training programmes, field activities, and biodiversity conservation initiatives.

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2.8. Promote collaborations with government agencies, research institutions, environmental organisations, and local and regional communities for invasive species management and native biodiversity conservation.

2.9. Maintain appropriate records and periodically assess the University's initiatives and contributions towards reducing the ecological impacts of invasive alien species.

3. Policy Principles

3.1. Prevention and Risk Reduction

The University will take preventive measures to minimize the introduction and spread of alien and invasive species.

These may include:

3.1.1. Avoiding the intentional introduction of known invasive plant species.

3.1.2. Preference for suitable native and non-invasive plant species in campus plantation and landscaping programmes.

3.1.3. Inspection of planting material, nursery stock, soil, compost, and other materials that may introduce invasive weed seeds.

3.1.4. Maintaining cleanliness of agricultural equipment, gardening tools, and machinery to reduce accidental dispersal of weed seeds.

3.1.5. Maintaining healthy vegetation cover in vacant and disturbed areas to reduce opportunities for invasive weeds to establish.

3.2. Protection of Campus Biodiversity

The University will encourage management practices that protect native vegetation and desirable agricultural and horticultural plants.

Such measures may include:

3.2.1. Conservation and promotion of suitable native plant species.

3.2.2. Development of diverse vegetation cover on campus.

3.2.3. Prevention of invasive species from dominating native plant communities.

3.2.4. Protection of campus plantations, gardens, orchards, and Agricultural areas from invasive weed competition.

3.2.5. Promotion of biodiversity-friendly landscaping practices.

4. Alien Species Impact Reduction Strategy

The University shall adopt a multi-dimensional strategy for reducing the impact of alien and invasive species on campus, consisting of the following components:

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4.1. Prevention

The University will minimize the introduction of potentially invasive species through responsible plant selection, procurement, and campus landscaping practices.

4.2. Early Detection

Regular inspection and monitoring will be undertaken to identify invasive species at an early stage, particularly in agricultural fields, gardens, vacant areas, and roadsides.

4.3. Control and Removal

Appropriate management measures will be undertaken to control and remove invasive species before they become widely established or produce significant quantities of propagules.

4.4. Restoration

Where invasive species have been removed, the University will encourage restoration of affected areas through suitable native or non-invasive vegetation and appropriate campus greening practices.

4.5. Awareness and Education

The University will promote awareness among students, faculty, gardeners, maintenance personnel, and other stakeholders regarding:

- Identification of invasive alien species.
- Ecological impacts of invasive weeds.
- Prevention of their spread.
- Safe and environmentally responsible management practices.

4.6. Research and Demonstration

The University may encourage academic and research activities related to invasive species identification, monitoring, ecological impacts, and sustainable management, particularly through relevant departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Environmental Science, and allied disciplines.

4.7. Maintaining records of invasive species management activities.

5. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed as and when required.

14.01.25

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