SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY®

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Policy on Sustainable Use, Conservation and Restoration of Land

SWAMI VIVEKANAND SUBHARTI UNIVERSITY Registrar MEERUT 14.01.2025

S. No.	Particulars	Description
1	Policy Number	Ref-U-01/SVSU/2025/1401(ii) Date- 14.01.2025
2	Policy Statement	Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut, recognizes the importance of sustainable land use, conservation, and restoration in maintaining ecological balance, protecting biodiversity, preventing land degradation, and promoting environmental sustainability. As an educational and research institution, the University is committed to contributing to the sustainable management and restoration of land through academic programmes, interdisciplinary research, innovation, campus-based environmental initiatives, and community engagement. The University shall promote awareness, knowledge dissemination, and responsible land-use practices among students, faculty members, staff, and local and regional communities through educational activities, research projects, capacity-building programmes, and collaborations with relevant stakeholders. The Policy provides an institutional framework for integrating the principles of sustainable land management, conservation, and restoration into the University's academic, research, administrative, operational, and outreach activities, thereby contributing to environmental protection and the achievement of relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 15 (Life on Land).
3	Scope of the Policy	The policy applies to all University land, including built-up areas, open land, agricultural and horticultural land, green spaces.
4	Policy Status	Original
5	Originated By	Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Science and Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology
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 that land is a finite and vital natural resource that plays a fundamental role in maintaining ecological balance, conserving biodiversity, supporting food and water security, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The University acknowledges its responsibility as an educational, research, and community-oriented institution to contribute towards the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of land through its academic, research, administrative, operational, and outreach activities.

The University is committed to integrating the principles of sustainable land management, soil conservation, biodiversity protection, prevention of land degradation, and ecological restoration into its institutional practices. Through academic programmes, interdisciplinary research, innovation, student engagement, awareness campaigns, capacity-building initiatives, and collaborations with government agencies, research institutions, NGOs, and local and regional communities, the University seeks to promote knowledge, responsible practices, and collective action for sustainable land management.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish an institutional framework through which Swami Vivekanand Subharti University contributes to the sustainable use, conservation, and restoration of land through its academic, research, administrative, operational, and community engagement activities. The specific objectives of this Policy are to:

2.1. Promote awareness, understanding, and integration of sustainable land use, soil conservation, biodiversity protection, and ecological restoration principles into the University's academic programmes, curriculum, teaching-learning processes, and institutional activities.

2.2. Encourage interdisciplinary research, innovation, consultancy, and student projects focusing on land degradation, soil erosion, desertification, sustainable land management, soil rehabilitation, and ecological restoration.

2.3. Promote the sustainable and responsible use of land under the University's ownership or management through appropriate land-use planning, conservation measures, green infrastructure development, and environmentally responsible campus development.

2.4. Encourage afforestation, biodiversity conservation, soil rehabilitation, water conservation, and restoration of degraded, barren, or underutilized land through campus-based initiatives, research activities, and demonstration projects, wherever feasible.

2.5. Promote student and faculty participation in land conservation and restoration initiatives through NSS activities, plantation drives, field-based learning, internships, environmental clubs, awareness campaigns, and community engagement programmes.

2.6. Strengthen collaboration with government departments, research institutions, environmental organisations, NGOs, agricultural institutions, and local and regional communities to promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, and sustainable land management practices.

2.7. Encourage the development and dissemination of innovative solutions, scientific knowledge, and best practices for preventing land degradation, conserving natural resources, and restoring terrestrial ecosystems.

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2.8. Promote awareness and capacity building among students, faculty members, staff, and local and regional communities regarding responsible land use, soil health, ecosystem conservation, and the importance of restoring degraded land.

2.9. Integrate sustainable land management and conservation considerations into the University's infrastructure development, landscaping, horticultural activities, plantation initiatives, and other relevant administrative and operational decisions.

3. Policy Principles

3.1. Sustainable Land Use Planning

The University will ensure that campus planning and land allocation decisions are guided by principles of sustainable land use. Land-use changes shall be assessed for their impact on soil health, drainage, vegetation and long-term land productivity before approval.

3.2. Prevention of Land Degradation

The University will take proactive measures to prevent soil erosion, compaction, waterlogging and contamination of land under its management, including appropriate drainage planning, vegetative cover and responsible waste and chemical management.

3.3. Soil Conservation and Health

The University will promote practices that maintain and improve soil health, including organic composting, minimization of chemical inputs, appropriate irrigation practices and protection of topsoil during construction and landscaping activities.

3.4. Restoration of Degraded Land

Degraded, barren or underutilized land within university premises may be restored through afforestation, native plantation, soil rehabilitation, water conservation measures and, where appropriate, removal or management of invasive vegetation.

3.5. Responsible Construction and Infrastructure Development

New buildings, roads, utilities and other infrastructure shall, wherever practicable, minimize land disturbance, protect fertile and ecologically valuable land, and incorporate compensatory restoration or plantation where land resources are unavoidably affected.

3.6. Water and Land Management Integration

The University will integrate water conservation and management measures, such as rainwater harvesting and efficient irrigation, with land management practices to support land productivity and reduce degradation risk.

3.7. Land Degradation Neutrality

In line with UNSDG Target 15.3.1, the University will strive towards land degradation neutrality by ensuring that the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions is maintained or enhanced over time.

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4. Implementation

Implementation of this policy may include:

4.1. Identification and mapping of university land, including degraded, underutilized, and ecologically valuable areas.

4.2. Prevention of further degradation of vulnerable land through appropriate management measures.

4.3. Restoration of suitable degraded or underutilized land through afforestation and soil rehabilitation.

4.4. Development of sustainable land-use plans for future campus construction and expansion.

4.5. Consideration of land conservation impacts in campus construction and landscaping proposals.

4.6. Periodic land health and soil-quality assessments.

4.7. Coordination among academic, administrative, maintenance and environmental units.

4.8. Student and staff participation in land conservation and restoration awareness activities

5. Monitoring and Reporting

The Department of Agriculture, Faculty of Science and the Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Technology shall maintain appropriate records of land conservation and restoration initiatives. Periodic reports may include:

5.1. Extent of land, including degraded and restored land.

5.2. Afforestation, plantation and soil-restoration activities and their outcomes.

5.3. Land health assessments and soil-quality observations.

5.4. Restoration and land-rehabilitation activities undertaken during the reporting period.

5.5. Land-conservation-related research, student projects and awareness programmes.

5.6. Progress toward sustainable use, conservation and restoration of land in alignment with UNSDG 15.3.1.

6. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed as and when required.

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14.01.2026