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POLICY AND GUIDELINES ON  
IDENTIFICATION, MONITORING AND  
PROTECTION OF IUCN RED LIST OF  
THREATENED SPECIES IN CAMPUSES  
AND ACTIVITIES OF UNIVERSITI  
MALAYSIA TERENGGANU

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## **A. Background**

Malaysia is ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the world as one of the most megadiverse countries based on estimates of country richness and endemism in four terrestrial vertebrate classes and vascular plants. To date, Malaysia has an estimated 15,000 species of vascular plants, 306 species of mammals, 742 species of birds, 242 species of amphibians, 567 species of reptiles, over 449 species of freshwater fish, over 500 species of marine fish and more than 150,000 species of invertebrates.

However, many of these species are under threat and is listed under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species under the threatened categories which are Critically Threatened (CR), Endangered (EN), and Vulnerable (VU). In IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, 'native' directs to the species that are currently occurring within their natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (i.e. within the range they occupy naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans).

In Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, the university campus on the coastal area of the Pantai Tok Jembal, still retains a considerable area of coastal mangrove forest while the Bukit Kor campus is surrounded with virgin forest and secondary growth forest. As such, UMT is still a haven for various wildlife species, with an estimated 12 mammal species (2 civet, 1 otter, 2 rodent, 4 bat, 1 primate, 1 wild boar, 1 canine species), 49 avian species, 22 herpetofauna (5 amphibian, 11 lizard, 10 snake and 3 turtle species) and various aquatic species (including 1 crab, 2 prawn, 11 fish species) recorded up to 2023. As of current time, there is a pressing need to ensure the protection and conservation of the biodiversity found in Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) as several species recorded in UMT is listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable respectively.

Aligning with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States, of which Malaysia is a member, several Sustainable Development Goals will be implemented and supported in UMT. These include Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life On Land and Partnership for the Goals. As UMT has and is undergoing rapid development, this policy and guideline serves to better identify, monitor and protect the biodiversity existing in UMT by several measures which will be highlighted in later sections of this paper.

Aligned with the Government policy on sustainable development, a special task force called Jawatan Kuasa Citra dan Kelestarian Kampus (JCKK) under Pro Naib Chancellor (Strategic and Performance) was assigned to facilitate and propose any sustainable practices that may improve IU Green Metric. Currently, UMT is ranked 12 out of 43 among the education providers that took part in IU Green Metric 2023. Hence, the current policy paper provides the guidelines for the implementation of sustainable practices that will contribute to the protection and conservation of critical habitat and existing species in campuses and activities of UMT.

## **B. Scope**

Sustainable land use practices, public education and awareness, wildlife habitat preservation and investing in nature-based projects are examples of techniques for protecting and conserving biodiversity. As such, UMT will monitor all activities carried out within the campus to ensure that no wildlife or critical habitats is harmed or destroyed which intentionally or unintentionally diminishes or eliminates the role of the species or ecological function of the said habitat. This includes practices or actions that might endanger the wildlife through close contact with UMT community/ individual affiliated with UMT or through activities conducted by UMT. The UMT community, including students, faculty, staffs, service agencies and external parties shall abide by the prohibitions stated in the guidelines. The public and university guests are also enjoined to abide by this policy upon entering the university premises and participating in any University activities. Exceptions due to research activities, special events, etc may be granted on case-to-case basis subject to approval of university management council.

## **C. Terminology**

Animal abuse/ cruelty	the crime of inflicting physical pain, suffering or death on an animal, usually a tame one, beyond necessity for normal discipline. It can include neglect that is so monstrous (withholding food and water) that the animal has suffered, died or been put in imminent danger of death
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Hunting	sport that involves the seeking, pursuing, and killing of wild animals and birds, called game and game birds, primarily in modern times with firearms but also with bow and arrow
wanton destruction	deliberately causes harm, damage, or waste without having any reason to

**D. Preparations, implementation, enforcement and alternatives**

**I. Preparation: Dissemination of info/ Education**

Sustainability related committee shall initiate the information, education and communication to UMT community. The campaign shall include the activities to educate the community to understand the need to protect and preserve biodiversity in UMT, love and care for the various species in UMT, to promote better understanding of co-existing in harmony with wildlife.

**II. Implementation**

Special Task Force committee shall be formed to coordinate the overall campaign, monitor and ensure enforcement of the policy. The policy cover administrators, faculty, non-academic staffs, service providers, members of the public, athlete's and other university guests. The campaign materials shall include signage, infographics and social media outlets approved by the University.

**III. Enforcement**

Written warnings and written explanation are required for first-time offense and further punishment that are deemed suitable by the University administrators for repeated offenders.

**IV. Alternatives**

1. Scheduled talks
2. Signing of pledges

**E. Relevant committee and their responsibilities**

- I. **Special Task Force** shall coordinate the campaign, monitor the implementation and ensure the enforcement of the policy.
- II. **Pusat Pembangunan Harta (PPH)** shall ensure the facility needed to support the sustainable practices. PPH shall ensure the maintenance of such facility by employing contractors, etc.
- III. **Pusat Komunikasi Korporat (PKK)** shall be responsible for dissemination of information, education and communication campaign with rationale of sustainable living with wildlife and prohibition of actions detrimental to biodiversity in UMT.
- IV. **UMT staffs** are required to cooperate and help educate and promote sustainable biodiversity practices and principles to students and fellow colleagues.
- V. **Students, Alumni, Guests, Cafeteria owners** shall abide by the guidelines.
- VI. **Bahagian Keselamatan** shall enforce the policy in campuses and give out warnings/penalty for any reported misconduct.

## **F. Recommendations**

The current policy recommends the following:

- I. The University to have posters on sustainable practices in regard to biodiversity in UMT and inform the UMT community the locations and population status of wildlife through Sustainability Campus website or any other media reachable to the community.
- II. UMT community to fully understand and adhere to practices that protect and preserve biodiversity which includes road safety and regulations to prevent wildlife from being roadkills in UMT. Additional information on wildlife, and critical habitats shall be added to educate UMT community from time-to-time.
- III. UMT cafeteria owner to dispose the food waste daily to composting centre to avoid feral wildlife such as wild boar, feral dogs and cats to be a nuisance in UMT.
- IV. UMT bookstores, student centre or student union to sell UMT merchandise to support the protection and conservation of biodiversity in UMT.

## **G. Policy Enforcement**

This policy is effective from March 30, 2024.