UNIVERSITY POLICY NO. 047, SERIES OF 2025

POLICY ON THE INTEGRATION OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INTO CAMPUS PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

SECTION 1. POLICY DECLARATION

Quezon City University (QCU), in fulfillment of its institutional commitment to environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, ecological protection, and responsible campus development, hereby adopts this Policy on the Integration of Local Biodiversity Conservation into Campus Planning, Infrastructure Development, and Construction Activities.

The University recognizes that biodiversity is essential to ecological stability, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and the well-being of communities.

As a public higher education institution, QCU acknowledges that campus development, building construction, renovation, land improvement, landscaping, and infrastructure expansion may affect existing trees, vegetation, wildlife habitats, soil resources, and other ecological features.

The University therefore commits to incorporating local biodiversity considerations into relevant institutional planning and development decisions.

Consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land), QCU shall promote environmentally responsible infrastructure development that protects existing biodiversity, minimizes ecological disturbance, and supports the conservation and restoration of local terrestrial ecosystems.

No major campus development or construction project involving significant land disturbance, vegetation removal, or potential habitat alteration shall proceed to final institutional approval without appropriate biodiversity screening and documented consideration of identified ecological impacts, subject to applicable legal, technical, safety, and emergency requirements.

The University shall prioritize the avoidance and minimization of adverse biodiversity impacts and shall require appropriate restoration or mitigation measures where ecological disturbance cannot reasonably be avoided.

This policy establishes the institutional framework for biodiversity-sensitive planning, environmental assessment, sustainable construction, responsible landscaping, ecological monitoring, and continuous improvement.

SECTION 2. LEGAL AND POLICY BASES

This policy is anchored on the following legal, regulatory, and international frameworks:

2.1. The 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 16. Recognizes the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology.

2.2. Republic Act No. 9147, or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act. Establishes requirements concerning wildlife conservation and habitat protection.

2.3. Republic Act No. 7586, as amended by Republic Act No. 11038, or the Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act. Provides the framework for the protection and management of designated protected areas.

2.4. Presidential Decree No. 705, or the Revised Forestry Code of the Philippines, as amended. Establishes relevant requirements concerning forest resources and regulated tree-related activities.

2.5. Presidential Decree No. 1586, or the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System. Establishes environmental impact assessment requirements for covered projects.

2.6. Republic Act No. 9729, as amended, or the Climate Change Act of 2009. Establishes the national framework for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

2.7. Republic Act No. 10121, or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010. Provides relevant requirements concerning risk reduction and resilience.

2.8. Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. Establishes requirements for responsible waste management.

2.9. Republic Act No. 9275, or the Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004. Establishes measures for protecting water resources.

2.10. Republic Act No. 12009, or the New Government Procurement Act, and its applicable implementing rules and regulations. Provides the framework for lawful and accountable government procurement.

2.11. Applicable National Building Code, Philippine Green Building Code, and local building regulations. Establish relevant building design, construction, safety, and sustainability requirements.

2.12. Applicable Quezon City environmental, land-use, zoning, urban greening, and green building regulations. Provide local requirements relevant to environmentally responsible development.

2.13. Applicable Department of Environment and Natural Resources regulations. Provide relevant requirements concerning environmental impact assessment, tree cutting, biodiversity conservation, and environmental permitting.

2.14. Convention on Biological Diversity. Promotes biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

2.15. United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11. Promotes sustainable cities and communities.

2.16. United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 13. Promotes climate action.

2.17. United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15. Promotes the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

All references shall be interpreted according to their current legal effect and applicability to University operations.

SECTION 3. OBJECTIVES

3.1. General Objective

To institutionalize the systematic integration of local biodiversity conservation into Quezon City University's planning, infrastructure development, construction, renovation, landscaping, and campus management processes.

3.2. Specific Objectives

This policy aims to:

1. Integrate biodiversity considerations into institutional planning and development.
2. Require biodiversity screening for relevant construction and infrastructure projects.
3. Protect existing trees, vegetation, wildlife habitats, and ecological features.
4. Minimize adverse environmental impacts of campus development.
5. Promote biodiversity-sensitive building and landscape design.
6. Encourage the use of ecologically appropriate native plant species.
7. Prevent unnecessary destruction of terrestrial habitats.
8. Promote responsible soil and water resource management.
9. Incorporate biodiversity protection into project approval procedures.
10. Establish ecological mitigation and restoration requirements.
11. Promote environmental accountability among contractors and service providers.
12. Establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
13. Strengthen biodiversity-related research and environmental education.
14. Support QCU's contribution to SDG 15.

SECTION 4. SCOPE AND COVERAGE

This policy shall apply to University-managed properties and relevant institutional planning and development activities.

4.1. Institutional Planning

The policy shall apply to relevant campus master plans, land-use plans, infrastructure development plans, and other institutional planning documents.

4.2. New Building Construction

All proposed new buildings shall undergo appropriate biodiversity screening before final institutional project approval.

4.3. Building Renovation and Expansion

Renovation and expansion projects that may affect vegetation, soil, drainage, wildlife habitats, or other ecological features shall be assessed for potential biodiversity impacts.

4.4. Campus Infrastructure Projects

The policy shall apply to relevant roads, walkways, drainage systems, parking areas, utility installations, and other infrastructure developments.

4.5. Landscaping and Grounds Management

The policy shall cover landscaping, tree planting, vegetation maintenance, and other land management activities.

4.6. University Contractors

Contractors, consultants, architects, engineers, and other service providers involved in covered projects shall comply with applicable biodiversity protection requirements.

4.7. University Offices

All University offices responsible for planning, infrastructure development, facilities management, procurement, environmental management, and project monitoring shall observe this policy.

SECTION 5. DEFINITION OF TERMS

5.1. Biodiversity refers to the variety of living organisms, including diversity within species, between species, and among ecosystems.

5.2. Local Biodiversity refers to plant, animal, and other biological species and ecological features occurring within or associated with the local environment of University-managed properties.

5.3. Biodiversity-Sensitive Planning refers to institutional planning that considers ecological features, habitats, species, and potential biodiversity impacts.

5.4. Biodiversity Screening refers to a preliminary assessment intended to identify relevant ecological features and potential impacts of a proposed project.

5.5. Biodiversity Impact Assessment refers to a more detailed evaluation of potential project effects on species, habitats, and ecological functions, where warranted.

5.6. Native Species refers to species occurring naturally within a particular geographic area or ecosystem.

5.7. Invasive Alien Species refers to non-native species whose introduction or spread threatens biodiversity or ecosystem functions.

5.8. Ecological Restoration refers to activities intended to assist the recovery of degraded, damaged, or disturbed ecosystems.

5.9. Habitat Protection refers to measures intended to preserve environments necessary for the survival and reproduction of organisms.

5.10. Sustainable Campus Development refers to institutional development that integrates environmental, social, and operational considerations.

5.11. Mitigation Hierarchy refers to the sequence of avoiding, minimizing, restoring, and, where appropriate and legally permissible, compensating for adverse environmental impacts.

SECTION 6. GENERAL POLICY GUIDELINES

6.1. Mandatory Biodiversity Consideration

QCU shall require biodiversity considerations to be incorporated into relevant institutional planning and development processes.

6.2. Biodiversity Screening Before Project Approval

Proposed projects involving land disturbance, vegetation removal, or potential habitat alteration shall undergo appropriate biodiversity screening before final institutional approval.

6.3. Protection of Existing Trees and Vegetation

The University shall prioritize the preservation of healthy trees, native vegetation, and ecologically significant green spaces where feasible and consistent with legitimate safety and development requirements.

6.4. Protection of Wildlife Habitats

Development activities shall avoid unnecessary disturbance or destruction of identified wildlife habitats.

6.5. Integration into Campus Master Planning

Relevant campus development plans shall consider existing green spaces, tree cover, vegetation, ecological corridors, soil conditions, and biodiversity conservation opportunities.

6.6. Biodiversity-Sensitive Building Design

New building projects shall consider appropriate design measures that minimize ecological disturbance and support environmental sustainability.

6.7. Sustainable Landscaping

Campus landscaping shall prioritize ecologically suitable plants, responsible water use, soil conservation, and biodiversity-friendly management practices.

6.8. Native Plant Conservation

The University shall encourage the preservation and appropriate use of native plant species.

6.9. Prevention of Invasive Species

QCU shall discourage the introduction of invasive alien species through landscaping, construction, and grounds management.

6.10. Soil Protection

Construction and landscaping activities shall implement appropriate measures to prevent unnecessary soil erosion, compaction, contamination, and degradation.

6.11. Water and Drainage Management

Development projects shall consider appropriate drainage, water conservation, and runoff management measures.

6.12. Construction Waste Management

Contractors shall comply with applicable waste management requirements and minimize environmental pollution.

6.13. Ecological Mitigation and Restoration

Where ecological disturbance cannot reasonably be avoided, appropriate mitigation and restoration measures shall be identified and implemented.

6.14. Environmental Compliance

Projects shall comply with applicable environmental assessment, tree cutting, building, and other regulatory requirements.

6.15. Contractor Accountability

Relevant biodiversity protection measures shall be incorporated into project specifications and contracts where legally appropriate.

6.16. Monitoring and Evaluation

The University shall monitor implementation of relevant biodiversity protection and restoration measures.

SECTION 7. BIODIVERSITY SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

7.1. Initial Project Identification

The requesting or implementing office shall identify the proposed development project and its anticipated environmental footprint.

7.2. Preliminary Biodiversity Screening

The designated technical office shall conduct or coordinate preliminary biodiversity screening.

The screening shall consider:

a. Existing trees and vegetation.

b. Native plant species.

c. Wildlife observations and potential habitats.

d. Green spaces and ecological features.

e. Soil and drainage conditions.

f. Potential habitat disturbance.

g. Potential effects on adjacent ecosystems.

h. Applicable environmental restrictions.

7.3. Biodiversity Risk Classification

Projects shall be classified according to their potential biodiversity impacts.

Low-risk projects: Activities with negligible anticipated biodiversity disturbance.

Moderate-risk projects: Activities involving limited vegetation disturbance or other manageable ecological impacts.

High-risk projects: Activities involving significant vegetation removal, potential disturbance of sensitive habitats, or other substantial ecological concerns.

7.4. Detailed Assessment

Projects identified as having potentially significant biodiversity impacts shall undergo a more detailed assessment proportionate to the risks and applicable legal requirements.

7.5. Mitigation Planning

The implementing office shall identify appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, or restore adverse biodiversity impacts.

7.6. Institutional Review

The biodiversity screening results and proposed mitigation measures shall be reviewed by the designated University office before final institutional project approval.

7.7. Documentation

Biodiversity screening and assessment records shall be retained as part of the project documentation.

7.8. Regulatory Compliance

Where a project is covered by the Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System or other regulatory requirements, the University shall obtain applicable clearances and permits.

The internal biodiversity screening process shall supplement, not replace, legally required environmental assessments.

SECTION 8. INTEGRATION INTO CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING

The University shall incorporate relevant biodiversity information into campus development planning.

Planning considerations shall include:

a. Existing tree cover.

b. Campus green spaces.

c. Ecologically significant vegetation.

d. Potential wildlife habitats.

e. Native species conservation.

f. Soil and drainage conditions.

g. Opportunities for ecological restoration.

h. Biodiversity-friendly landscaping.

i. Climate resilience.

j. Long-term sustainable land management.

Where feasible, relevant ecological information shall be reflected in campus maps, development plans, and infrastructure planning documents.

SECTION 9. BIODIVERSITY-SENSITIVE BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN

New building and infrastructure projects shall consider appropriate biodiversity-sensitive design measures, including:

9.1. Site Selection

Project sites shall be evaluated to minimize unnecessary impacts on significant vegetation and ecological features.

9.2. Building Footprint

Where feasible, building layouts shall minimize avoidable disturbance of existing trees and green spaces.

9.3. Tree Protection

Appropriate tree protection measures shall be implemented during construction.

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9.4. Green Infrastructure

Projects may incorporate appropriate green infrastructure, such as vegetated areas, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, and other environmentally beneficial features.

9.5. Sustainable Landscaping

Landscape plans shall prioritize ecologically appropriate species and responsible resource management.

9.6. Wildlife-Sensitive Design

Where relevant, building and landscape design shall consider measures that reduce avoidable disturbance or harm to local wildlife.

9.7. Ecological Restoration

Disturbed areas shall be rehabilitated through appropriate restoration measures.

SECTION 10. CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

All relevant construction projects shall implement appropriate environmental management measures.

These shall include:

a. Protection of identified trees and vegetation.

b. Prevention of unnecessary habitat disturbance.

c. Soil erosion and sediment control.

d. Responsible construction waste management.

e. Prevention of water and soil contamination.

f. Appropriate management of construction materials.

g. Compliance with relevant environmental permits.

h. Implementation of approved biodiversity mitigation measures.

i. Post-construction site rehabilitation.

j. Documentation of environmental compliance.

SECTION 11. TREE PROTECTION AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

11.1. Tree Inventory

Relevant development projects shall identify trees that may be affected by proposed activities.

11.2. Preservation Priority

Healthy trees and ecologically significant vegetation shall be preserved where feasible.

11.3. Tree Removal and Relocation

Tree cutting, removal, or relocation shall comply with applicable laws, permit requirements, and approved technical procedures.

11.4. Replacement Planting

Where required or appropriate, replacement planting shall prioritize ecologically suitable species.

11.5. Post-Planting Maintenance

Replacement trees and other planted vegetation shall receive appropriate maintenance and survival monitoring.

11.6. Documentation

Tree protection, removal, relocation, and replacement activities shall be documented.

SECTION 12. BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN CAMPUS LANDSCAPING

QCU shall promote landscaping practices that support local biodiversity.

Relevant measures shall include:

a. Appropriate native species planting.

b. Conservation of existing vegetation.

c. Avoidance of invasive alien species.

d. Water-efficient landscaping.

e. Soil conservation.

f. Appropriate vegetation maintenance.

g. Reduction of unnecessary chemical inputs.

h. Protection of suitable wildlife habitats.

i. Ecological restoration of degraded landscape areas.

j. Monitoring of landscape biodiversity.

SECTION 13. BIODIVERSITY MITIGATION AND RESTORATION REQUIREMENTS

Where relevant projects may adversely affect biodiversity, the University shall apply the mitigation hierarchy.

13.1. Avoidance

Potential adverse impacts shall be avoided where feasible.

13.2. Minimization

Unavoidable impacts shall be reduced through appropriate design, construction, and operational measures.

13.3. Restoration

Disturbed ecological areas shall be rehabilitated where technically feasible.

13.4. Additional Conservation Measures

Where appropriate and legally permissible, additional conservation measures may be undertaken to address residual ecological impacts.

13.5. Monitoring

The effectiveness of mitigation and restoration measures shall be monitored using relevant ecological indicators.

SECTION 14. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

14.1. Office of the University President

The Office of the University President shall provide overall institutional leadership, policy direction, and oversight.

14.2. Office of the Vice President for Administration or Equivalent Office

The designated administrative office shall oversee implementation and coordination of biodiversity-sensitive campus development.

14.3. Planning and Development Office

The designated planning office shall:

a. Integrate biodiversity considerations into relevant campus development plans.

b. Coordinate environmental review during project planning.

c. Maintain appropriate planning documentation.

d. Support monitoring and evaluation.

14.4. Physical Facilities and Engineering Office

The designated facilities and engineering office shall:

a. Coordinate biodiversity screening for relevant projects.

b. Identify trees and vegetation potentially affected by development.

c. Integrate appropriate mitigation measures into project design.

d. Monitor relevant construction environmental requirements.

e. Coordinate post-construction restoration.

14.5. Sustainability or Environmental Management Office

The designated sustainability office or focal unit shall provide relevant environmental guidance, support biodiversity documentation, and coordinate monitoring.

14.6. Procurement Office

The Procurement Office shall support the incorporation of lawful biodiversity-related requirements into relevant procurement specifications and contracts.

14.7. Bids and Awards Committee

The Bids and Awards Committee shall perform its functions in accordance with applicable procurement laws and regulations.

14.8. Research and Extension Offices

The designated research and extension offices shall support relevant biodiversity assessments, research initiatives, and community engagement activities.

14.9. Institutional Quality Assurance Office

The designated quality assurance office shall support policy monitoring and institutional reporting.

14.10. Contractors, Architects, Engineers, and Consultants

Contractors and technical consultants shall comply with applicable environmental laws and approved biodiversity protection requirements.

SECTION 15. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

QCU shall establish appropriate indicators to evaluate implementation.

Performance indicator	Measurement
Institutional biodiversity planning policy	Approved and publicly accessible policy
Biodiversity screening coverage	Percentage of relevant development projects screened
Campus biodiversity inventory	Availability of documented baseline information
Tree protection	Number of trees protected during relevant projects
Native vegetation conservation	Documented native species protection or planting
Biodiversity mitigation plans	Number of relevant projects with documented mitigation measures
Sustainable landscaping	Number of projects incorporating appropriate biodiversity-friendly landscaping
Environmental compliance	Number of relevant projects with required permits and clearances
Ecological restoration	Number of disturbed areas rehabilitated
Post-construction monitoring	Number of relevant projects assessed after completion
Annual biodiversity planning review	Completion of annual implementation assessment

Monitoring shall distinguish between planned measures, implemented actions, and verified ecological outcomes.

SECTION 16. ANNUAL BIODIVERSITY INTEGRATION REVIEW

The designated coordinating office shall conduct an annual review of biodiversity integration in institutional planning and development.

The review shall examine:

1. Development projects undertaken.
2. Biodiversity screening activities.
3. Identified ecological impacts.
4. Tree and vegetation protection measures.
5. Environmental compliance documentation.
6. Biodiversity-sensitive design features.
7. Mitigation and restoration activities.
8. Contractor environmental compliance.
9. Post-construction ecological conditions.
10. Recommendations for improvement.

An Annual Biodiversity Integration in Campus Development Report shall be prepared for institutional review.

SECTION 17. DOCUMENTATION AND RECORDKEEPING

QCU shall maintain appropriate documentary evidence of biodiversity integration.

Relevant records may include:

1. Approved institutional policy.
2. Campus master plans.
3. Campus biodiversity inventories.
4. Tree and vegetation maps.
5. Biodiversity screening forms.
6. Biodiversity assessment reports.
7. Project environmental management plans.
8. Building and landscape design documents.
9. Relevant environmental permits.
10. Tree protection and replacement records.
11. Construction monitoring reports.
12. Ecological restoration documentation.
13. Post-construction monitoring reports.
14. Annual Biodiversity Integration Reports.

Records shall be maintained in accordance with applicable University procedures and government requirements.

SECTION 18. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

QCU shall promote awareness of biodiversity-sensitive campus development among relevant personnel and stakeholders.

Activities may include:

a. Biodiversity conservation orientation.

b. Environmental assessment training.

c. Sustainable campus planning seminars.

d. Tree protection and native plant conservation workshops.

e. Biodiversity-friendly landscaping activities.

f. Construction environmental management orientation.

g. Research and extension activities concerning urban biodiversity.

SECTION 19. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Where appropriate, QCU may coordinate with:

a. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

b. Quezon City Government.

c. Relevant local environmental and planning offices.

d. Academic and research institutions.

e. Environmental and biodiversity conservation organizations.

f. Other relevant government and community stakeholders.

Such coordination shall comply with applicable laws and institutional procedures.

SECTION 20. FUNDING AND RESOURCE SUPPORT

Implementation of this policy shall be supported through appropriate University resources, subject to approved budgets and applicable government financial and procurement regulations.

Relevant biodiversity screening, mitigation, and restoration requirements shall be considered during project planning and budgeting.

SECTION 21. COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All concerned University offices, personnel, contractors, and consultants shall comply with applicable provisions of this policy.

Noncompliance shall be addressed through appropriate administrative, contractual, or legal procedures.

No provision of this policy shall authorize development activities inconsistent with applicable environmental, building, procurement, or land-use regulations.

SECTION 22. POLICY DISSEMINATION AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Upon approval, this policy shall be disseminated to relevant University offices, planning personnel, contractors, and institutional stakeholders.

The policy shall be made publicly accessible through the official Quezon City University website and other appropriate communication platforms.

SECTION 23. POLICY REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This policy shall be reviewed at least once every three (3) years, or earlier when warranted by changes in environmental regulations, institutional development priorities, or emerging biodiversity conservation needs.

The designated coordinating office shall conduct an annual implementation review.

Proposed amendments shall be submitted through appropriate University approval procedures.

SECTION 24. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this policy is declared invalid or unenforceable by competent authority, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 25. REPEALING AND AMENDING CLAUSE

All existing University policies, memoranda, guidelines, and procedures inconsistent with this policy shall be reviewed and, where appropriate, amended or superseded in accordance with applicable institutional procedures.

SECTION 26. EFFECTIVITY

This policy shall take effect upon approval by the University President, subject to any additional approval requirements under applicable laws, University governance rules, and institutional procedures.

All concerned University offices shall undertake the necessary measures for its dissemination, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.

APPROVED BY:

DR. THERESITA V. ATIENZA
University President

Date Approved: January 27, 2025

Cc: Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs
Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance
Records Management Office