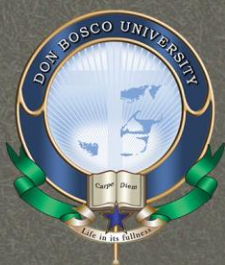


Wildlife Protection Policy



ASSAM
DON BOSCO
UNIVERSITY

WILDLIFE PROTECTION POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Assam is rich in biodiversity, and it is State of Northeast India which is endemic to a myriad of bird areas in the world. Owing to its adjacency to the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, the University Campus at Tapesia harbours various common and rare species of both flora and fauna. Sighting globally threatened wildlife such as *Nycticebus bengalensis*, *Elephus maximus*, *Trachypithecus pileatus*, and several other threatened species is very common in the Campus. Therefore, the University considers that it is its social, moral, and legal responsibility to make the campus a safe haven for all threatened flora and fauna. Keeping these in mind, the University authority drafted a Wildlife Protection Policy in the following context together with definite objectives which are directed towards wildlife protection and conservation.

1. CONTEXT

Monitoring: Monitoring the status of threatened species of flora and fauna.

Awareness: Creation of and spreading awareness about the importance of biodiversity among students, teaching, and non-teaching staffs.

Reforestation: Reforestation of deserted areas for reclaiming lost habitats of threatened fauna.

Free animal movement: No restriction or barriers to the movement of animals.

No hunting: The University Campus is a “No-hunting Zone”.

2. Objectives:

- a. To engage students in the monitoring of threatened wildlife in the campus through student research works.
- b. To spread awareness about the importance of biodiversity among students, teaching, and non-teaching staff through workshops, lectures, and related events on biodiversity.
- c. To reforest and afforest deserted areas for reclamation of lost habitats that harbour threatened flora and fauna.
- d. To maintain a continuous forest cover and uninterrupted animal corridors in order to reduce human-animal conflict.
- e. To prohibit all kinds of hunting activities in the campus.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for implementation of this policy lies with the Board of Management. The Directors of Schools and the Heads of Departments are responsible for ensuring compliance with University's Wildlife Protection Policy within their area of control. The Administrative Officers of the University will actively monitor the performance of Schools and Departments in the implementation of the aims and objectives of this Policy in the activities under their control. Whilst the University accepts the main responsibility for implementation of this policy, individuals have a very important role in cooperating with those responsible for safeguarding the threatened wildlife fauna.

4. ACTION

- a. A record of tracking endemic and IUCN threatened species on Campus and in the vicinity of the Campus has been undertaken by the Department of Zoology.
- b. The students and faculty of the University play an active role in inventoring and monitoring the existing flora and fauna on the Campus and its vicinity.
- c. In order to allow unhindered movement of elephants and other wild animals for their access to water and foliage available in the Campus, no walls or fences are erected rather only boundary pillars are used to demarcate the land of the University.
- d. Hunting is strictly prohibited in the university campus.
- e. Students of the School of Life Sciences are also engaged in Conservation and Management of the existing ecosystem through a one-year intense Project as part of the curriculum.
- f. Every year, students are taken to a Nature's Trail (a trekking event both in-campus and off-campus) where they are taught about the Do's and Don'ts when entering a forest.
- g. Every year, the University participates in the annual Campus Bird Count event which is a part of an international event, The Great Backyard Bird Count.

- h. The University celebrates World Animal Day every year through the organisation of activities which promote the welfare of animals.
- i. Awareness programmes, Workshops, Seminars and Conferences are organised every year for involving the youth towards wildlife conservation and management.
- j. The infrastructure of the University is built in an eco-sensitive manner taking into account the natural landscape and the environment in order to protect and live in harmony with the wild flora and fauna.
- k. The University conducts Plantation Drives (planting of samplings which are native to the area) within the Campus to increase the forest cover.
- l. The University collaborates with external agencies to equip the members of the faculty, staff and student community to understand the conservation importance of threatened wildlife.
- m. The University periodically removes invasive plant species like *Mikania sp.*, *Ageratum sp.*, *Mimosa pudica*, *Chromolaena sp.* to control their spread in the tea gardens.

5. Significance

Significance of paramount importance in this policy are the following:

- Introducing into the vision of the University about a clear mandate to monitor and conserve threatened wildlife fauna
- Designing a master plan for a wildlife-friendly campus
- Ensuring the involvement of faculty and students in the monitoring and conservation of wildlife to bring about attitudinal change that can bring positive impact towards the overall goal.