



Girne University

Water Ecosystems Policy

September 2024

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect the health of water ecosystems located on Girne University campuses and research areas, minimise physical, chemical and biological changes occurring in water ecosystems, and ensure sustainable water management.

Scope

This policy covers all faculties, colleges, laboratories, campus facilities, and water-related research and application areas of the university. It also includes internships and field activities that interact with water ecosystems.

Basis

The policy is based on the following national and international legislation and standards:

- ***Water Pollution Control Regulations (TRNC and EU)***
- ***Rivers, Lakes and Coastal Ecosystem Protection Guidelines***
- ***International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and STCW – standards related to water-based maritime research***
- ***Girne University Environment and Sustainability Policy***

Definitions

Water Ecosystem

Water habitats including rivers, lakes, ponds, wetlands and coastal areas.

Physical Change

Changes in water levels, sediment accumulation, or erosion effects.

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Chemical Change

Changes in water parameters (pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, heavy metal concentration, etc.).

Biological Change

Changes in the diversity and density of living species in the aquatic ecosystem.

Prevention and Mitigation

Measures taken to minimise factors that negatively impact ecosystem health.

Responsibility**Rectorate**

Ensures the implementation of the policy and allocation of resources.

Sustainability and Quality Coordination

Conducts monitoring and reporting processes.

Faculty of Maritime Sciences and Water Sciences Research Unit

Conducts research on aquatic ecosystems and implements field applications.

Laboratory Supervisors

It enables the measurement and recording of physical, chemical and biological parameters.

Student Council

Contributes to the organisation of awareness programmes and field activities.

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Policy Principles

- All land and marine activities are planned after analysing their potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems.
- Water quality, ecosystem health and biological diversity are continuously monitored.
- Students and staff are made aware of the importance of protecting aquatic ecosystems through education and awareness programmes.
- All research and projects related to water ecosystems are conducted in accordance with national and international standards.

Implementation and Action

Plan Water Ecosystem Monitoring Programme

Regular water quality measurements and biological observations are carried out.

Physical and Chemical Change Control

Sediment and erosion, chemical parameters and pollutants are monitored.

Biodiversity Monitoring

Living species and their densities are regularly assessed.

Education and Awareness

Students and staff are informed about the protection of aquatic ecosystems.

Reporting and Improvement

Monitoring results are recorded in annual reports; issues and preventive measures are identified.

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Monitoring and Evaluation

Water quality and ecosystem health indicators are continuously monitored.

Annual reports are prepared by the Sustainability and Quality Coordination Unit.

Identified actions are followed up and results are shared with all relevant units.

Training and Awareness

Training modules and field applications related to water ecosystems are organised.

Students and staff are informed about ecosystem health protection, measurement and data collection methods.

Entry into Force and Revision

This policy shall enter into force on the date it is approved by ***the Girne University Senate***.

The policy shall be reviewed every three years and updated as necessary.

Implementation

The provisions of this policy shall be implemented by ***the Sustainability and Quality Coordination Office***.

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Appendices

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Appendix 2: Water Ecosystem Risk Assessment Table

Appendix 3: Training and Awareness

Programme Content **Appendix 4:** Annual

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Appendix 5: Action Plan and

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Appendix 1: Water Ecosystem Monitoring Form

Date	Location	Physical Parameters	Chemical Parameters	Biological Parameters	Responsible Personnel	Comments

 **Physical parameters:** Water level, sediment measurements

 **Chemical parameters:** pH, dissolved oxygen, salinity, heavy metals

 **Biological parameters:** Species diversity and density

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Appendix 2: Water Ecosystem Risk Assessment Table

No	Activity/Source	Risk	Responsible Unit	Preventive Measures
1	Land and coastal works	High	Sustainability Coordination	Prior risk analysis, ecosystem impact assessment
2	Laboratory and research activities	Medium	Laboratory Manager	Waste management and disposal protocols
3	Water-carrying vessels and vehicle operations	Middle	Faculty of Maritime Studies	Waste control protocol, training

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Appendix 3: Training and Awareness Programme Content

- Seminars and field applications related to the protection of aquatic ecosystems
- Training materials for students and staff
- Online training modules and informational materials

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Appendix 4: Annual Monitoring and

Reporting Format Title:

Content :

- Annual assessment of physical, chemical and biological parameters
- Water ecosystem health indicators
- Effectiveness of preventive and mitigating measures
- Report on education and awareness activities
- Corrective and remedial measures

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Appendix 5: Action Plan and Implementation Schedule

Period	Activity	Responsible Unit	Start	End Date	Revision
2025	Water quality monitoring	Laboratory Responsible	01.01.2025	31 December 2025	Measurement protocol
2025	Physical, chemical and biological changes control	Sustainability Coordination	01.01.2025	31.12.2025	Regular monitoring and improvement
2025	Training and Awareness	Student Council	01.02.2025	31.12.2025	Programme will be updated

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