15.3.3 Local Biodiversity Included in Planning and Development

2024-2025

AASTMT includes planting in the planning and design of its building projects. In academic year 2024–2025 it repurposed the hall attached to the Presidency building at its Abu Qir campus in Alexandria; the design added planting basins across the site and inside the building and linked the building to the green areas around it. The project is recorded in the standards that AASTMT's Engineering Administrations follow when designing, building and maintaining buildings, issued by the Construction Administration in November 2025, which also record earlier projects designed in the same way. The AASTMT Environmental Sustainability Policy, as published during 2025, committed the Academy to develop green spaces on campus that support native flora and fauna.

Repurposed Presidency hall, Abu Qir campus

A new student space with planting inside and around the building

construction 2024/2025, Abu Qir campus, Alexandria

AASTMT repurposed the hall attached to its Presidency building at Abu Qir to create the Think Tank, a gathering space for students. The project repurposed part of an existing building. Planting basins were designed across the general site and inside the building, in the main corridors and around the main staircase patio. A modern metal canopy over the entrance gives students shade and links the building in form and function to the green areas around it.

The project is also recorded in the AASTMT Biodiversity Action Plan and Campus Development Plan 2025–2030, Section 11.1 (Documented Practice: Campus land and green space), as the Presidency annex hall ("Think Tank"), Abu Qir, built 2024/2025: the repurposing of the hall attached to the Presidency building, with many planting basins in the surrounding site and in the main corridors and staircase patio. The plan describes these as greening features of the design and requires a biodiversity survey before design for future projects under Section 8.

AASTMT Biodiversity Action Plan and Campus Development Plan 2025–2030

11. Documented Practice — 11.1 Campus land and green space (excerpt)

Item	Period	What was done or recorded	Source
Presidency annex hall ("Think Tank"), Abu Qir	Built 2024/2025	Repurposing of the hall attached to the AASTMT Presidency building, with many planting basins in the surrounding site and in the main corridors and staircase patio. These are greening features of the design; a biodiversity survey before design is required for future projects under Section 8.	AASTMT standards for constructing, operating and maintaining buildings, November 2025



[AASTMT Biodiversity Action Plan and Campus Development Plan 2025–2030, Section 11.1]

[AASTMT Engineering Administrations' Approach to Constructing, Operating and Maintaining Buildings to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (2025, in Arabic)]

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Green spaces that support native flora and fauna

AASTMT Environmental Sustainability Policy, as published during 2025, last review 2025

The AASTMT Environmental Sustainability Policy published on the AASTMT ESG website, whose review table records its creation in January 2019, approval by the SDGs Workforce Committee and a last review in 2025, commits AASTMT to "develop green spaces on campus to support native flora and fauna; implement eco-friendly landscaping practices", to develop a campus-specific biodiversity and green space plan for each branch, and to develop a Green Campus physical infrastructure roadmap for each campus addressing "expansion of green and permeable surfaces, native planting and campus biodiversity corridors".

[AASTMT Environmental Sustainability Policy (AASTMT ESG website)]

Planting and local plants in every project

Construction Administration standards, issued November 2025, all AASTMT campuses

AASTMT's Engineering Administrations design and carry out construction and development work on its campuses. Their standards, issued by the Construction Administration in November 2025 and published in Arabic on the AASTMT website, require that this work reduces the impact of buildings on the environment. For the land around each building, the standards require:

- the design of many planting basins across the general site, which also reduces the heat-island effect;
- the use of all vacant areas of the general site to increase plantings, flower beds, trees, shrubs and local plants;

- perforated-pipe irrigation in planting basins whenever the site around a project is modified, instead of flood irrigation with drinking water;
- open drainage that carries rainwater from roofs and walkways into planting basins and green areas, and drains in paved areas that let rainwater soak into the soil to recharge the natural groundwater;
- irrigation of green areas with groundwater from deep wells, tested regularly to confirm it is suitable;



AASTMT Engineering Administrations' Approach to Constructing, Operating and Maintaining Buildings to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (2025, in Arabic)

Every new building planned with local biodiversity in mind

AASTMT Environmental Sustainability Policy, Version 6, October 2026

Life on Land (SDG 15)

- **Green campuses:** maintain and extend planted areas from the AASTMT nurseries, protect mature trees, and favor native and drought-adapted species.
- **Species:** survey and monitor campus biodiversity, protect IUCN Red List and nationally protected species, and contain and replace invasive alien species using GIS and AI mapping.
- **Land:** conserve soil through compost and drip irrigation, plan every new building with local biodiversity in mind, and support research on desertification, land reclamation and remediation.
- **Community:** work with communities and NGOs on afforestation, greening and the fight against wildlife trafficking.

AASTMT Environmental Sustainability Policy (Climate, Ocean and Land), Version 6

Project biodiversity review

AASTMT Biodiversity Action Plan and Campus Development Plan 2025–2030, Section 8, published November 2026

The AASTMT Biodiversity Action Plan and Campus Development Plan 2025–2030, published on the AASTMT website, sets a biodiversity review for every qualifying project from November 2026: site selection on previously developed land, a baseline survey checked against the IUCN Red List, design that keeps mature trees and uses native planting, a Biodiversity Statement approved before tender, construction safeguards, native replanting, and follow-up surveys one and three years after completion.



8. Project Biodiversity Review

Stage	Requirement	Responsible
1. Site selection	Prefer previously developed land. Avoid protected areas, wetlands, dunes and habitats of listed species	Construction Administration
2. Baseline survey	Map trees, green cover, species, soil and water. Check against the IUCN Red List, national lists and the invasive species watch list	SDG 15 officer with the colleges and Facilities and Maintenance
3. Design	Keep mature trees and green corridors. Minimise the footprint. Use native planting. Retain rainwater on site. Use shielded lighting	Designers and consultants
4. Approval	Biodiversity Statement, using the template to be issued by the SDGs Workforce Committee (Action 1), completed before tender; until the template is issued, a signed screening note by the SDG 15 officer. No approval for a net loss of biodiversity; until the Section 6 method is adopted, no loss of habitat area or of a mature tree that could be retained	SDGs Workforce Committee
5. Construction	Tree protection zones. Topsoil reuse. Pre-clearance checks; no tree or shrub removal during the bird breeding season, as set by the SDG 15 officer, unless a check on the same day confirms there are no active nests. Control of dust, runoff and waste	Contractors, supervised by the Construction Administration
6. Restoration	Native replanting. Apply Action 4	Facilities and Maintenance; AASTMT Planting Nurseries
7. Follow-up	Survey at one and three years after completion	SDG 15 officer

AASTMT Biodiversity Action Plan and Campus Development Plan 2025–2030