



## AASTMT Environmental Policy

### DESCRIPTION

Sustainable Development is crucial for global well-being. AASTMT aligns with the UN 2030 Agenda, actively combating climate change and advocating for the preservation of marine life. Through education and awareness initiatives, we address climate change impacts on health, biodiversity, water resources, and agriculture. Our commitment extends to Large Marine Ecosystems, focusing on reducing pollution, sustainable management, and combating ocean acidification.

AASTMT involves students and the community in safeguarding land-based ecosystems, emphasizing their role in human health, food systems, and climate change mitigation. We stress the significance of terrestrial ecosystems in providing essential goods, regulating water quality, and mitigating natural disaster risks like floods and landslides.

### SCOPE

Preserving life on land and life below water, besides combating climate change, are a priority for our research and development as a leading university, ensuring that we help save our world for generations to come. The policy applies to all the AASTMT campuses, where all the university employees, including staff, students, and SDGs workforce officers, observe the full implementation of all the policy terms.

### Aims of the Policy

Through initiatives, research, and training, AASTMT will be at the forefront of finding sustainable social, economic, environmental, and technical solutions to global problems. AASTMT can achieve pioneer innovation through its operations and may set an example for other sectors and universities.

AASTMT policy aims to:

- Protect the environment and address climate change to ensure that all students are fully aware of actions to combat climate change and its impacts as indicated by the UN's motivation for Climate Action goal (SDG13).

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- Familiarize students with the related international conventions about climate change.
- Provide frequent initiatives for community-serving workshops within AASTMT's campuses and cities that will guarantee AASTMT's graduates' readiness to be involved in any environmental preserving system during their careers.
- Ensure that students in the maritime sector are fully aware of actions to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development as indicated by the UN for Life Below Water goal (SDG14).
- Familiarize students with related international conventions.
- Provide frequent initiatives for community-serving workshops within AASTMT's campuses and cities that will guarantee AASTMT's graduates' readiness to be involved in any environmental preserving system during their careers.
- Protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terraces ecosystems, sustainably manage the forests, combat desertification, arrest and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss as indicated by the UN for Life On Land goal (SDG15).
- Ensure the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, particularly forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
- Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, increase afforestation and reforestation globally, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world.
- Integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, and accounts.
- Conserve the world's forests, mountains, drylands, and wetlands to promote sustainable development and halt deforestation to protect natural habitats and threatened species.

## INTRODUCTION

Climate change impacts every nation, disrupting economies and affecting lives. Greenhouse gas emissions are at historic highs, with rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and vulnerable populations bearing the brunt. Urgent action is crucial, as global warming threatens to surpass 3 degrees Celsius by the century's end. The Paris Agreement, endorsed by 193 UN member countries, is pivotal for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDGs 13, 14, and 15 focused on climate action, life below water, and life on land. The Arab Academy of Science, Technology, and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) commits to SDGs implementation, forming the SDGs Workforce Committee to raise awareness, recommend initiatives, and ensure continuous review and adaptation for maximum educational and social impact.

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## POLICY STATEMENT

AASTMT is committed to achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and taking urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts and preserve the life below water. AASTMT provides educational programs and initiatives to enhance society's knowledge about climate change and its consequent effects on human health, biodiversity, water resources, and agriculture. We raise a flag warning among our community that climate change symptoms are increasing rapidly, accelerating the intensity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones. This is causing aggravating water management problems, reducing agricultural production and food security, increasing health risks, damaging critical infrastructure, and interrupting the provision of essential services such as water and sanitation, education, energy, and transport.

AASTMT is also committed to enhancing society's knowledge about the Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) pressures and their adverse effect on the biodiversity, food chain, and ocean acidification phenomenon. We raise awareness on ways to prevent and reduce marine pollution; further the sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems; address the impacts of ocean acidification; regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices.

AASTMT is ambitious to involve our students and the community in protecting, restoring, and promoting all land-based ecosystems and biodiversity. We teach our students that sustainable ecosystems are essential for human health through safe water supplies, sustainable food systems, crops, pollinators, soil, medicines, and climate change mitigation. We hold events to emphasize the importance of terrestrial ecosystems to provide a series of goods, raw materials for construction and energy, food, the capture of carbon, maintenance of soil quality, provision of habitat for biodiversity, maintenance of water quality, as well as regulation of water flow and erosion control. Thus, highlighting its importance in reducing the risks of natural disasters such as floods and landslides, regulating climate and maintaining the productivity of agricultural systems.

### Procedures and Forms:

#### Procedures:

- All deans will read the policy objectives to grasp the policy points of interest.
- Deans must delegate department heads to check course files and report any environmental course titles or codes that need updating to meet policy objectives (SDGs workforce committee to be advised of the progress).

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- Pieces of Advice may be given from the SDGs workforce committee to each participant in the implementation process.
- The final versions of course files will be submitted to the SDGs workforce committee for revision and archived as evidence of the effort.
- The SDGs workforce committee is required to update the SDGs workforce page on the AASTMT website.
- SDGs workforce committee is responsible for reviewing the suggested initiatives.
- The SDGs workforce committee officers will contact all the research teams under the AASTMT umbrella seeking to promote SDG13, 14 and 15 research topics.
- Research and Innovation: Supporting world-class research at the AASTMT and in broader collaborations to deliver significant research and innovation that aids the transition to a net-zero-carbon economy.
- Learning and Teaching: Developing educational initiatives with worldwide impact and scale to establish a world-class reputation for high-quality education on climate-related issues, such as providing opportunities for every student to study and work in climate-related matters; delivering programs with a sustainability agenda; delivering pedagogically innovative teaching initiatives to minimize carbon emissions.
- University Strategy: Assisting in the transition to a net-zero-carbon economy through the Academy's strategy, sub-strategies, and core decision-making, as well as its basic principles and commitments.
- University Governance: Ensure that the Climate Action Framework is implemented with clear leadership and governance, with public accountability through full disclosure of progress against our principles.
- Academy Campus Emissions Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation: Reducing all carbon emissions on AASTMT campuses in a manner that is consistent with larger sustainability objectives and in a Just Transition.
- Internationalization Strategy: Supporting and fostering carbon-conscious international collaboration to achieve our strategic internationalization goals.
- Carbon Management system: will Improve the AASTMT's carbon emissions data quality as a strategic tool for understanding and systematically reducing its carbon footprint.
- AASTMT: Local and Regional Leader and Partner: Working with the significant community, industry, government, and third-sector partners to assist the transition to a net-zero-carbon economy.
- AASTMT shall Offer educational programs on freshwater ecosystems (water irrigation practices, water management/conservation) for local or national communities.

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- AASTMT shall Offer educational programs or outreach for local or national communities on sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism.
- AASTMT shall offer educational outreach activities for local or national communities to raise awareness about overfishing, illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and destructive fishing practices
- AASTMT shall Support or organize events aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable utilization of the oceans, seas, lakes, rivers, and marine resources
- AASTMT shall Have the policy to ensure that food on campus that comes from aquatic ecosystems is sustainably harvested
- Work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) to maintain and extend existing ecosystems and their biodiversity, of both plants and animals, especially ecosystems under threat.
- Work directly (research and/or engagement with industries) on technologies or practices that enable the marine industry to minimize or prevent damage to aquatic ecosystems

#### Forms:

- Initiative suggestion form.

#### Roles and Responsibilities:

- Staff members: increasing the number of publications regarding SDG 13, 14, and 15.
- Deans: Follow up the implementation of SDG 13, 14, and 15 awareness through course updating.
- SDGs workforce committee is responsible for following up on the policy implementation and providing support as required.
- Students: Get involved in initiatives implementation as required.

#### Objectives:

1. Carbon Emissions Reduction:
  - 1.1. Being Net Zero Carbon by 2050.
  - 1.2. A 50% reduction in emissions by 2040.

#### Performance indicators:

1. The number of initiatives carried out annually.
2. The number of students involved.
3. Courses providing SDG 13, 14, and 15 awareness.

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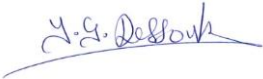
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## Action plans:

AASTMT provides annual financial grants to enrich environmental research. Also, AASTMT supports field trips, transportation and accommodation of its research teams or students, and organising related workshops.

AASTMT will direct all the graduation projects in the related specializations to serve UN SDGs.

## Review program

Policy title	AASTMT Environmental Policy
Date Created:	January 2019
Approving Body:	SDGs Workforce Committee
Version:	4
Last Review Date	2023
Next Review Date:	2025
Policy Owner:	Dean of Scientific Research for Maritime Affairs Head of Aquaculture Department, College of Fisheries & Aquaculture Technology. The Sea Training Institute
Lead Contact:	Prof. Dr. Kareem Tonbol Dr. Haiam Aboul-Ela Eng. Mohamed Elbawab
Approval Signature	Dean of Scientific Research and Innovation 

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