



Port Said University Aquatic Ecosystem Preservation Plan



Initiated: 2022

Reviewed: 2024

Overview

Port Said University (PSU) is committed to protecting and preserving aquatic ecosystems by minimizing human-induced alterations that impact the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of these environments. This plan outlines specific measures PSU will undertake to reduce its ecological footprint, enhance conservation efforts, and support the long-term health and sustainability of aquatic ecosystems connected to campus activities.

Objectives

- 1. Prevent Ecosystem Disruption:** Reduce physical, chemical, and biological disturbances to nearby aquatic ecosystems.
- 2. Promote Eco-Friendly Campus Practices:** Implement campus-wide practices that minimize pollution and ecosystem degradation.
- 3. Enhance Awareness and Conservation Efforts:** Foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship within the PSU community.

Action Plan

1. Protecting Physical Integrity of Aquatic Ecosystems

- **Control Erosion and Sediment Runoff:** Implement erosion control measures, such as retaining walls, vegetative buffers, and permeable pavements, to reduce sedimentation in nearby aquatic systems.
- **Minimize Habitat Disruption:** Limit construction or expansion activities near water bodies to avoid altering natural aquatic habitats. Conduct environmental impact assessments before any project that could impact these areas.
- **Natural Vegetation Zones:** Establish buffer zones with native vegetation around campus water bodies to stabilize shorelines, filter runoff, and provide habitats for local wildlife.

2. Reducing Chemical Contamination

- **Wastewater Treatment Standards:** Ensure that all wastewater from campus is treated to remove pollutants, meeting or exceeding national water quality standards before discharge into natural water bodies.
- **Eco-Friendly Landscaping:** Replace chemical pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers with environmentally friendly alternatives, and use them minimally to prevent nutrient runoff that can lead to algal blooms and other ecological imbalances.
- **Proper Hazardous Waste Disposal:** Strictly control and monitor the disposal of chemicals, particularly from laboratories and maintenance activities, to prevent accidental contamination of water bodies. Ensure all hazardous materials are stored and disposed of according to regulatory standards.

3. Managing Biological Integrity and Biodiversity Conservation

- **Invasive Species Control:** Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species that could disrupt native biodiversity. Collaborate with local environmental agencies to monitor and manage any invasive species found near campus aquatic systems.
- **Aquatic Habitat Restoration:** Where past activities have caused ecological harm, initiate restoration projects to rehabilitate natural habitats and restore biodiversity. This could include replanting native vegetation or stabilizing shorelines to support local flora and fauna.
- **Research and Monitoring:** Encourage PSU faculty and students to conduct ecological monitoring and research on aquatic health, biodiversity, and ecosystem resilience, identifying indicators of biological alteration and potential solutions.

4. Promoting Sustainable Water Use and Reducing Discharges

- **Stormwater Management:** Use green infrastructure, such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements, to manage stormwater runoff effectively, preventing contaminants from entering water bodies.
- **Reduce Campus Water Usage:** Implement water conservation practices, including low-flow fixtures, water-efficient landscaping, and promoting water-saving practices, to minimize the discharge volume into aquatic systems.
- **Waste Minimization:** Set up recycling, composting, and proper waste disposal facilities throughout campus to reduce waste materials that may contribute to ecosystem contamination if not properly managed.

5. Awareness and Education Programs

- **Community Education:** Launch programs to educate students, faculty, and staff on the importance of preserving aquatic ecosystems and minimizing harmful activities.
- **Environmental Stewardship Initiatives:** Encourage student groups to organize clean-up days, restoration projects, and awareness campaigns to engage the PSU community in actively protecting local water bodies.
- **Training Workshops:** Offer workshops for faculty and staff in departments that handle hazardous materials, focusing on pollution prevention, proper disposal methods, and best practices for reducing aquatic ecosystem impact.

6. Monitoring and Regular Assessment

- **Water Quality Monitoring:** Establish a program for continuous monitoring of water quality in nearby aquatic ecosystems, with routine testing for pH, nutrient levels, heavy metals, and other pollutants to ensure compliance with environmental standards.
- **Annual Ecosystem Impact Assessment:** Conduct an annual review of PSU's activities, assessing their impact on aquatic ecosystems and identifying areas for improvement in pollution control and ecosystem preservation.
- **Adaptive Management:** Update the action plan based on monitoring results and emerging environmental challenges, adopting new practices and technologies as needed to reduce PSU's impact on aquatic ecosystems.

Timeline

- **0–6 Months:** Establish monitoring programs, begin water quality testing, and implement initial erosion control measures.
- **6–12 Months:** Launch awareness campaigns, complete vegetation buffers around water bodies, and phase out chemical pesticides and fertilizers.
- **12–24 Months:** Conduct first ecosystem impact assessment, initiate restoration projects, and hold workshops for pollution prevention and ecosystem protection.

Accountability and Reporting

The PSU Environment and Sustainability Office will oversee this plan's implementation, with quarterly progress reports and an annual environmental impact assessment shared with the campus community.

By following this plan, Port Said University aims to significantly minimize physical, chemical, and biological alterations to aquatic ecosystems, contributing positively to environmental sustainability and the protection of local biodiversity.

