

## Environmental Sustainability

**Policy Number:** 1.6.4.34  
**Responsible Officer:** Vice President (Regional Campuses, Estates & Infrastructure)  
**Policy Editor/Contact:** Manager Occupational Health and Safety  
**Approving Authority:** Vice-Chancellor & President  
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### 1. Purpose

This policy affirms USP’s role as a responsible custodian of Pacifica lands, freshwater bodies, ocean, atmosphere and natural resources provided to it, by its member countries.

### 2. Objective

To articulate the commitment of the University to environmental sustainability in accordance with international best practice and national legislation in its operations.

### 3. Application

This policy shall apply to all University policy and business operations and on all USP campuses, centers and other locations leased or rented by the University (subject to the terms of the lease agreements).

### 4. Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The 1992 UN convention on Biological Diversity defines biodiversity as “The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems”.
<b>Environment</b>	According to the WHO definition of environment in the context of health, the environment is all the physical, chemical and biotic factors (such as soil, climate and living things) external to the human host.
<b>Environment Management System (EMS)</b>	A system that enables the university to achieve its environmental goals by reducing adverse environmental impacts and promotes sustainability
<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	According to the United Nations (UN) World Commission on Environment and Development, environmental sustainability is

TERM	DEFINITION
	about acting in a way to ensure that the future generations have the natural resources available to use and live in.

Source: <<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/milestones/wced>> [Accessed 17 June 2021].

## 5. Policy

The University shall, reasonably, undertake the following:

- (i) Comply with local legislation on environmental sustainability, considering local customs and traditions regarding the environment;
- (ii) Consider and adopt international environment sustainable best practice with the focus on indigenous Pacifica sustainability strategies particularly related to the following:
  - (a) Environmental Sanitation & Safety across all USP sites;
  - (b) Water conservation and the promotions of sustainable water harvesting;
  - (c) Energy conservation and the promotion of renewable energy use;
  - (d) Waste minimization and the promotion of reusability and recycling;
  - (e) Biodiversity, Conservation and Rehabilitation of University property;
  - (f) Adoption of efficient & smart technology in the design, procurement, construction, operation, maintenance and disposal of buildings, equipment, infrastructure and campus landscape activities;
  - (g) Sustainability in the procurement of products, equipment, goods and services;
  - (h) Sustainable business travel practices and to consider all the alternatives to physical travel where possible;
  - (i) Promotion of food security initiatives where practical in campus landscaping plans.
- (iii) Strategically plan and support university-wide approach to ensure environmental sustainability is at the forefront of academic excellence and governance;
- (iv) Integrate sustainability principles in teaching, learning and research activities;
- (v) Benchmark internationally and report on its sustainability performance to learn and improve at every opportunity;
- (vi) Encourage the participation of all staff, students, alumni and key stakeholders in its sustainability initiatives through awareness programmes, training and rewards for demonstrated outstanding environmental sustainability performance;

## 6. Environment Management System (EMS)

The University shall adopt, appropriately resource and implement an internationally recognized environment management system to drive and enhance its environment management and sustainability activities. The EMS will;

- (i) Set and review the university environmental sustainability objectives;
- (ii) Continuously analyse its environmental impacts and legal requirements;
- (iii) Establish programmes to meet agreed objectives;
- (iv) Ensure employees and student's awareness and competence; and,
- (v) Review progress towards the agreed goals, objectives and acting upon to improve.

## **7. Related Policies**

This Policy shall be read together, but not limited, with the following

USP Building Maintenance Policy  
USP Building Maintenance Procedure  
USP Capital Building Projects Policy  
USP DISMAC Policy  
USP Field Trip Policy  
USP Human Resource Management Policy :  
USP Learning & Teaching policy  
USP Space Management Policy  
USP Work Integrated Learning Policy  
Campus fixed Asset Procedure  
Occupational Health, Safety & Wellness Policy  
Energy Efficient Computing Policy  
Print and Copy Guideline  
General Procurement Policy