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# Tantia University

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| **Policy title** | Policy on the Identification, Monitoring, and Protection of Biodiversity and Conservation-Priority Species |
| **Effective date** | 03-12-2024 |
| **Next scheduled review** | Three years after the effective date, or earlier if applicable rules change |

Tantia University is situated in the arid, canal-irrigated landscape of north-western Rajasthan, which supports diverse wildlife, including birds, trees, reptiles, and small mammals alongside agricultural farms, hospital premises, and campus areas. This policy establishes the University's commitment to identifying, monitoring, and protecting species recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List and relevant national and state conservation lists, particularly those occurring in areas influenced by University activities and operations.

## Scope

This policy applies to all University campuses, the Research Farm, gardens, hostels, hospital grounds, areas used for field programmes and plantation drives, and external sites surveyed or visited by the University, including lakes and forests. It also covers the sourcing and use of plants and animals for teaching, research, and treatment purposes, including medicinal plants used by the Ayurveda and Homoeopathy colleges and animals used by the Veterinary College. The policy is applicable to all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors associated with the University.

**Listed Species** refers to any plant or animal species that falls under one or more of the following categories:

(a) Classified as Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

(b) Protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, or covered by applicable provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

(c) Declared or recognised as protected by the Government of Rajasthan under applicable laws or conservation measures.

**Policy Statements**

**Identify:** Within one year of adoption, the University will carry out a baseline survey of plants, birds, reptiles and mammals on its campuses, Research Farm and regular field sites, with help from the Faculty of Agriculture, the Veterinary College, the Faculty of Science, the Forest Department and ecology institutes. Each species will be checked against the lists in Section 3, and the results are kept in a Species Register.

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**Monitor:** Students and staff, guided by the National Service Scheme and the National Cadet Corps, will count birds and record other wildlife at least twice a year. The Species Register will be updated after every survey, with photographs, dates and locations, and will note any change in numbers or habitat conditions. Sensitive locations, such as nests of listed species, will not be made public.

**Protect.** The University will:

- Not harm, capture, hunt, trade or disturb any listed species or its nest, burrow or root;
- Avoid falling or trimming trees with active nests, and schedule tree work outside breeding seasons wherever possible;
- Keep native trees, shrubs and water points that support wildlife, including bird feeders and water pots;
- Limit pesticides and herbicides on campus and favor methods that spare birds and pollinators;
- Keep outdoor lighting at safe levels near habitats; and
- Not introducing non-native animals.

**Sightings and injured wildlife.** Anyone who finds a listed species, or an injured wild animal, will keep a safe distance, inform the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture or the Veterinary College, and not handle the animal unless trained. The Veterinary College will give first aid and hand the animals to the Forest Department. Records of sightings will go into the Species Register.

**Responsible sourcing.** The University will not buy, collect or use wild-harvested listed plants or animals, or their parts, unless lawful permission exists and sourcing is sustainable. Colleges that use medicinal plants will prefer cultivated material and keep supplier records.

**Planning and construction.** Before any new building or major works, the project team will check the Species Register and local habitats. If a listed species could be affected, the work will be changed, delayed or relocated, with advice from the Forest Department.

**Education and partnership.** The University will teach students and the community about local and threatened species through classes, school visits and awareness events, and will share records with the Forest Department and conservation organizations where appropriate.

## Monitoring and Reporting

Each year the University will report the number of species recorded, listed species found, surveys held, incidents and actions taken. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell will present the report to the IQAC Meeting. and a summary will be published on the University website. The policy will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if conservation lists or laws change.

## Legal Compliance

The University will follow all applicable central and state laws on wildlife, forests, biodiversity and pollution.

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