



Land, Life, Learning: MPSU's Sustainable Campus Policy

I. Preamble

Recognizing that the Mountain Province State University (MPSU) is situated within the critical watershed areas and ancestral domains of the Cordillera Administrative Region, this policy affirms the University's commitment to responsible stewardship of all its land assets, including campuses, research stations, and extension sites. This policy is aligned with the Philippine National Land Use Policy, Republic Act No. 8371 (IPRA), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land), ensuring that the University's development is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially inclusive for present and future generations.

II. Goals and Objectives

1. To ensure all land within the University's jurisdiction is utilized efficiently and responsibly, integrating academic, research, and extension functions with environmental protection.
2. To protect critical ecosystems, watershed areas, and native flora and fauna against degradation, encroachment, and incompatible development.
3. To actively pursue the ecological restoration of degraded or underutilized University lands using indigenous species and traditional ecological knowledge.
4. To establish a clear institutional framework for land management that ensures compliance with national laws and respects the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs).

III. Scope and Applicability

This policy shall apply to all real estate properties, campuses (Bontoc, Tadian, Paracelis, Ba-ang and Bauko), research and development areas, demonstration farms, forests, and other land resources managed, administered, or utilized by the Mountain Province State University. This includes the formulation, implementation, and review of the University's **Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP)**.

IV. Key Policy Areas

A. Sustainable Use and Development



1. All infrastructure development must be guided by the approved LUDIP, prioritizing vertical expansion and multi-use facilities over horizontal sprawl to minimize environmental footprint.
2. New constructions must incorporate green building principles, rainwater harvesting, solar energy integration, and permeable paving to manage storm water runoff and reduce heat island effects.
3. Designated areas shall be maintained as ecological parks, demonstration farms, and nature laboratories to support instruction, research, and extension activities related to sustainable agriculture, forestry, and indigenous knowledge systems (IKS).
4. Extraction of resources (e.g., sand, gravel, timber) from University lands is strictly prohibited unless conducted for approved research or educational purposes and authorized by the University President, and in strict compliance with the DENR and LGU regulations.

B. Conservation and Protection

1. The University shall identify and strictly protect habitats for endemic and threatened species of plants and animals found within its properties.
2. University lands situated in critical watershed areas shall be designated as **Protection Zones**, where only activities necessary for environmental monitoring, conservation, and research are allowed.
3. Land use decisions must integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, strictly prohibiting development in geo-hazard prone areas (e.g., landslide and flood zones).
4. The University shall respect and integrate indigenous land management practices and **Ammungen** principles (traditional gathering and consensus) in land use decisions involving ancestral domains, in coordination with relevant Indigenous Peoples Organizations (IPOs).

C. Restoration and Rehabilitation

1. The University shall implement a continuous reforestation and afforestation program on all degraded and idle lands using native and endemic tree species suitable to the Cordillera ecosystem.
2. Specific programs shall be established to rehabilitate areas affected by past unsustainable practices (e.g., erosion control, soil health recovery) to restore ecological functions and services.
3. The MPSU College of Forestry or related units shall maintain an institutional nursery dedicated to propagating indigenous, high-value, and culturally significant seedlings for internal restoration and external community extension.

V. Institutional Governance



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Bontoc, Mountain Province 2616

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Mountain Province State University

1. **Land Use Management Committee (LUMC):** A permanent LUMC, chaired by the University President or their designated representative, shall be established. It must include representatives from the Administration, Academic Sector, Extension/Research, Student Body, and relevant Indigenous Peoples Mandatory Representative (IPMR) if applicable, or an IPO leader.
2. The policy must be integrated into the curricula, research agenda, and mandatory training programs for all faculty, staff, and students to promote a culture of environmental stewardship.

VI. **Monitoring**

The LUMC shall be responsible for annually monitoring key performance indicators (KPIs), including the rate of reforestation, soil quality improvements, and compliance with the LUDIP.

The policy and the LUDIP shall undergo mandatory review every five (5) years to incorporate new research findings, technological advancements and feedback from stakeholders, ensuring an adaptive management approach.

Policy approved by the MPSU Board of Regents