



POLICY ON LIFE BELOW WATER



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Adopted: 2026
Review cycle: every 3 years

POLICY STATEMENT

Lankaran State University (LSU) recognizes the protection and sustainable use of aquatic ecosystems as an institutional responsibility. Located in a region of significant ecological value and in proximity to the Caspian Sea basin, the University is committed to supporting environmental sustainability through responsible campus operations, education, research, and community engagement.

This policy establishes a structured framework for protecting water resources, reducing pollution risks, promoting biodiversity, and contributing to sustainable development through measurable actions until 2030.





PURPOSE

This policy aims to:

Promote sustainable use of freshwater and marine resources;

Protect aquatic biodiversity and surrounding ecosystems;

Reduce institutional activities that may negatively affect water quality;

Strengthen teaching, research, and innovation related to water sustainability;

Increase environmental awareness among students and staff;

Develop partnerships supporting ecosystem protection;

Ensure continuous improvement through measurable targets.





SCOPE

This policy applies to:

All campuses, buildings, and university facilities;

Academic and administrative staff;

Students, researchers, and visitors;

Laboratories and technical units;

Contractors operating on campus where relevant;

External partners involved in joint environmental initiatives.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS:

Sustainable Water Management

Monitor annual water consumption across campus facilities;

Reduce avoidable water waste through maintenance and efficiency measures;

Install water-saving fixtures where feasible;

Promote efficient irrigation systems;

Assess opportunities for rainwater harvesting and water reuse.

Pollution Prevention

Ensure safe disposal of laboratory and operational waste;

Prevent discharge of hazardous materials into drainage systems;

Maintain waste segregation systems reducing water contamination risks;

Promote environmentally responsible cleaning and maintenance practices.





Biodiversity Protection

Support conservation of local rivers, wetlands, coastal zones, and aquatic habitats;

Participate in clean-up and restoration initiatives;

Protect campus landscapes contributing to ecological balance;

Raise awareness on aquatic biodiversity conservation.

Education and Research

Integrate sustainability and water-related topics into relevant curricula;

Encourage student projects related to aquatic ecosystems;

Support academic research on regional biodiversity and water resources;

Increase conferences, seminars, and publications in related fields.

Community Engagement

Organize annual awareness campaigns on water protection;

Cooperate with schools, municipalities, public institutions, and NGOs;

Encourage student volunteering in environmental programs;

Share expertise with the wider community.

MEASURABLE TARGETS (BY 2030)

LSU aims to achieve the following targets:

Reduce avoidable campus water consumption by 15% compared with 2025 baseline levels;

Conduct at least 2 awareness activities annually related to water sustainability;

Implement water-efficiency measures in all major campus buildings where feasible;

Support at least 10 research outputs (publications, projects, conferences) related to aquatic or environmental sustainability;

Organize or participate in at least 1 environmental clean-up or restoration activity annually;

Increase student participation in sustainability initiatives each year;

Publish annual progress summaries on implementation.



Roles and Responsibilities

Coordinate implementation and reporting;

Monitor annual progress indicators;

Prepare institutional sustainability submissions and reports.

Administrative and Technical Units

Implement water-saving and pollution prevention measures;

Maintain facilities and provide operational data.



Compliance

All university units are expected to support implementation of this policy. Failure to comply with applicable environmental procedures may result in corrective administrative action in accordance with university regulations.

Review and Amendment

This policy shall be reviewed annually and may be amended where necessary to reflect institutional priorities, regulatory developments, or sustainability objectives.



Faculties and Research Units

Deliver teaching and research activities aligned with this policy.

Students and Student Organizations

Participate in awareness, volunteering, and sustainability initiatives.

Monitoring and Reporting

Performance shall be reviewed annually using the following indicators:

Total annual water consumption;

Number of water-efficiency improvements completed;

Number of awareness events conducted;

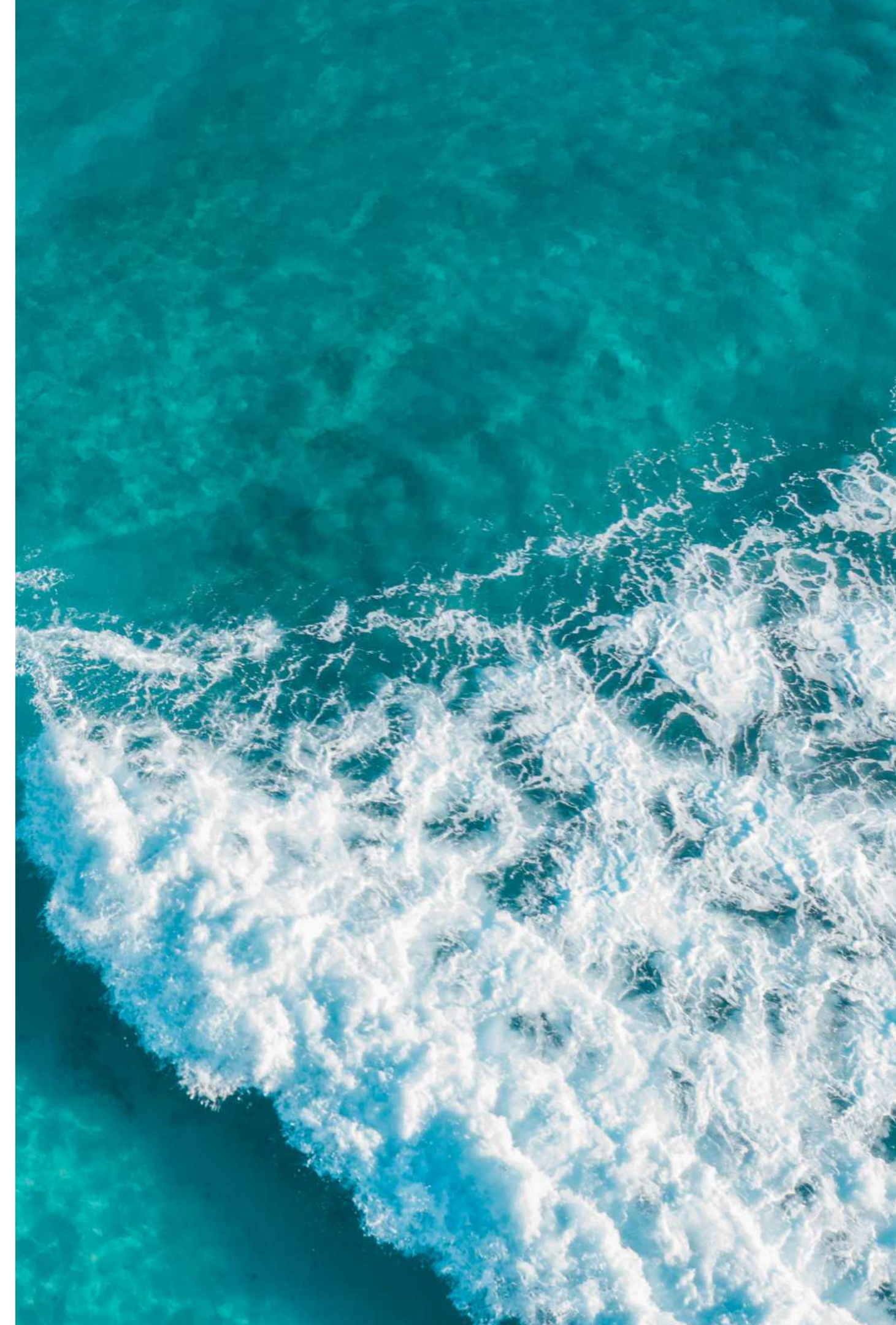
Student and staff participation rates;

Number of relevant research outputs;

Partnerships and outreach activities;

Evidence of environmental improvement initiatives.

An internal annual report shall be prepared and retained for institutional review.



FINAL COMMITMENT

Lankaran State University is committed to continuous environmental improvement and responsible stewardship of aquatic resources. Through this policy, the University seeks to create measurable positive impact through education, research, operations, and partnership by 2030.

