



Centurion
UNIVERSITY

Shaping Lives...

Empowering Communities...

ALIEN SPECIES MITIGATION POLICY 2024

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CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT
ODISHA

FOREWORD



At Centurion University of Technology and Management, we believe that a healthy and balanced ecosystem is essential for both our environment and our community. Our campus, located in the diverse and ecologically rich region of Odisha, provides a unique opportunity to preserve and protect local biodiversity. However, the introduction of alien species poses a significant threat to the balance of our natural environment, impacting native species and ecosystems.

This Alien Species Mitigation Policy reflects our commitment to minimizing the impact of non-native species on our campus. Through careful monitoring, management, and collaboration, we aim to safeguard the biodiversity of our campus and protect it from the ecological challenges posed by invasive species.

As part of our ongoing sustainability efforts, this policy reinforces our dedication to maintaining a vibrant and thriving environment, ensuring that Centurion University continues to be a leader in environmental responsibility and conservation.

Together, we can help preserve the natural beauty and ecological balance of our campus for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Supriya Pattanayak".

Prof (Dr) Supriya Pattanayak
Vice-chancellor
Centurion University of Technology and Management

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Alien Species Mitigation Policy

1. Introduction

This Policy provides the exclusive mechanism for the Centurion University of Technology and Management Campus and focuses on the policy reducing the impact of alien species on Campus.

Alien or non-native species are animals, plants or other organisms introduced by humans, either intentionally or accidentally, into areas outside their natural range. Some of these species become established and negatively impact native biodiversity. These species are classified as invasive alien species (IAS). Due to the increase in the movement of people and goods around the world, and with new trade routes opening and enhanced transportation, the number of species being introduced into new areas is rising. A 2017 study in the journal Nature Communications found that over one-third of all introductions in the past 200 years occurred after 1970. According to The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, IAS is one of the top causes of biodiversity loss and the second most common cause of species extinctions. The brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*), for example, is responsible for the extinction of 10 bird species on the island of Guam where it was introduced in the 1940s. IAS also constitutes the most significant threat to natural World Heritage sites, affecting 68 out of 241 sites, according to the IUCN World Heritage Outlook. IAS impacts go beyond biodiversity and also seriously affect economic activities, livelihoods, food security, and human health and well-being. Overall, IAS risks undermining progress towards achieving 10 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. Definitions

➤ What are Invasive Alien Species?

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are any species that are not native to an area but which are able to establish themselves and often spread quickly, causing environmental or economic damage. In its native range, a species will be kept in check by environmental factors and predators. In a new territory, without those same controls, it can thrive and

take over. When IAS are successful, they use up resources quickly, out-competing other native species and altering the ecosystem.

Many people believe that the spread of IAS is a natural occurrence and that we should allow nature to take its course. For the IAs issue, we are only concerned with harmful species that are spread by human activity, either intentionally or unintentionally and become invasive. There are many pathways by which species can spread, but some of the most common ones are the trade of goods and materials, the shipping industry, and recreational activities.

➤ **Why are Invasive Alien Species a problem?**

IAS is one of the biggest threats to biodiversity worldwide, and we need biodiversity! Native species evolve and adapt to form their own unique niche, and a delicate balance is required to keep all elements of the environment functioning in a healthy way. IAS alters that delicate balance. In many cases, invasive species can displace a similar native species by competition or can carry a disease that can kill the native.

The crayfish plague, carried by invasive crayfish, has resulted in the extinction of the white-clawed crayfish in many European countries. Impacts can also be economical; e.g. invasive alien crop pests can reduce agricultural yields. Biofouling shellfish, e.g. zebra mussel, can block water abstraction pipes. Growing global trade and transport creates ever-increasing risks of spread. Once an IAS is established, it is usually impossible, or economically prohibitive, to eradicate. Management then becomes an ongoing issue, with a high cost. The estimated associated cost of IAS management in the EU is €12 billion per annum.

3. Policies

➤ **Invasive Species Reduction**

By creating a sustainable network of all Students, Faculties and all Staff at the university, to develop and effectively share open high-quality knowledge and open data on invasive species, biological invasions can be better understood and managed. Facilitation of the development and delivery of high-quality open knowledge and open data on biological invasions and invasive alien species to all Students, Faculties and

Staff across all the campuses is the primary objective. This primary objective is achieved by:

- Enabling enhanced accessibility to open sources of knowledge including thematic open-access journals and to existing open databases on IAS;
- Encouraging and facilitating free access to results of scientific research on biological invasions and invasive species globally, specifically by encouraging open access publications of scientists and other data holders;
- Developing relevant funding infrastructure to support open-access publications on IAS;
- Working with commercial publishers to encourage free access to all IAS-related research and data published in their journals and books. Overall the university aims to uphold the following standards:
 - It is necessary to maintain protection and protected areas,
 - Study and monitor invasive species and develop measures to reduce invasive species;
 - It is necessary to prevent damage to ecosystems by invasive species, to protect nature, and to investigate and conserve biological diversity.

4. Approval and Review

This policy has been approved by the university administration and will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with current laws and best practices. Any amendments to the policy will be communicated to the university community.



Dr. Anita Patra
Registrar
Centurion University of Technology and Management





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CENTURION UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT, ODISHA

CAMPUSES:

Paralakhemundi Campus

Village Alluri Nagar
P.O. – R Sitapur, Via- Uppalada
Paralakhemundi, Dist.- Gajapati
Odisha, India. PIN– 761211

Bhubaneswar Campus

Ramchandrapur
P.O. – Jatni, Bhubaneswar
Dist.- Khurda, Odisha,
India, PIN– 752050

Balangir Campus

Behind BSNL Office
IDCO land, Rajib Nagar
Dist.- Balangir, Odisha
India, PIN-767001

Rayagada Campus

IDCO Industrial Area
Pitamahal, Rayagada
Dist.-Rayagada, Odisha
India, PIN-765001

Balasore Campus

Gopalpur,
P.O.-Balasore
Dist.-Balasore, Odisha
India, PIN-756044

Chatrapur Campus

Ramchandrapur,
Kaliabali Chhak,
P.O-Chatrapur, Dist.-Ganjam
Odisha, India, PIN-761020