

Biodiversity Policy



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1. Introduction

The diversity of life on Earth is critical to maintaining the natural balance of ecosystems, which sustain all forms of life, including humans. Vakrangee is committed to safeguarding this biodiversity, recognizing the profound impact business operations can have on the environment. This policy reflects our dedication to reducing ecological disruption, fostering sustainable practices, and protecting natural habitats.

As urbanization and industrialization grow, they place immense pressure on ecosystems. Vakrangee is determined to proactively address these challenges by embedding biodiversity conservation into every aspect of its operations.

2. Purpose

The goal of this policy is to outline Vakrangee's strategy for conserving biodiversity, minimizing the environmental impact of its activities, and promoting responsible resource management. Our specific aims include:

- Protecting ecosystems and habitats from degradation.
- Reducing operational footprints through sustainable practices.
- Fostering an organizational culture of ecological awareness and action.
- Collaborating with communities and environmental organizations to achieve conservation goals.

Vakrangee seeks to align its initiatives with global sustainability efforts, including the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The policy is reviewed annually, incorporating feedback and recommendations from various stakeholders.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all Vakrangee employees, facilities, and operations. Additionally, it extends to stakeholders, including franchisees, master franchisees, suppliers and partners, encouraging them to adopt and promote biodiversity-friendly practices. The policy governs:

- Environmental practices across operational sites.
- Use of resources in procurement and supply chain processes.
- Community outreach and education on biodiversity conservation.

4. Objective

Vakrangee aims to achieve the following goals:

1. **Preserving Habitats:** Safeguard ecosystems affected by operational activities.
2. **Promoting Awareness:** Encourage employees and stakeholders to adopt biodiversity-friendly habits.

3. **Optimizing Resources:** Enhance efficiency in water, energy, and material usage.
4. **Reducing Emissions:** Commit to lowering greenhouse gas outputs.
5. **Improving Waste Management:** Minimize landfill contributions by implementing better recycling systems.
6. **Complying with Regulations:** Abide by local and international biodiversity-related laws and policies.

To achieve these objectives, Vakrangee is engaged in developing initiatives to promote awareness about our diverse surroundings. Vakrangee has passionate associates who spearhead the cause of environment and sustainability across all our centres, who encourage and initiate activities and advocacy campaigns that bring about awareness about the need and urgency of sustaining nature. We also connect and promote associates to focus on reducing wastage of food, water, energy and optimize use of natural resources. We discourage use of single use plastic at our campuses and by our stakeholders. We ensure that our operations have a negative impact on biodiversity by complying with all the conditions identified and recommended during environmental audits and assessments.

The Company shall include the following factors in our commitment towards protecting our surroundings:

- Plantation drives to decrease emission and help to become Net Zero by 2035
- Beautification of campuses
- Prefer products that are eco-friendly, energy efficient and less polluting
- Dispose goods through authorized recycling agencies in an environmentally-friendly manner
- Use of less toxic products and no disposal at landfill
- Reduce environmental footprint by means of material, energy & water conservation
- Segregation of waste bins
- Plan to adopt sustainable packaging
- Co-create innovations like installation of bottle crusher to prevent plastic bottles being dumped in landfills
- Capacity building on biodiversity for stakeholders
- Raise awareness on conservation of biodiversity among local communities, employees and value chain
- Maintain Air Quality and Noise Levels within prescribed limits

5. Ownership of the Policy

Vakrangee's Sustainability Team is responsible for enforcing and periodically updating this policy. Their duties include ensuring compliance, monitoring progress, and recommending improvements. The Executive Management team provides the strategic direction necessary to support biodiversity initiatives and allocates resources for their implementation.

Further, our biodiversity policy is endorsed by the **Board of Directors**, the highest governing body in our organization. This endorsement reflects our strong commitment to preserving and enhancing biodiversity as a fundamental aspect of our sustainability efforts.

The Board's leadership ensures that the policy is integrated into our strategic vision and operational practices. By prioritizing the protection of ecosystems, species, and natural habitats, we aim to promote sustainable

development while minimizing our environmental impact. This endorsement reinforces our responsibility to contribute to global biodiversity conservation and ecological balance.

6. Roles & Responsibility

Leadership Team:

- Define long-term sustainability goals for the organization.
- Approve investments and resources for environmental programs.

Sustainability Team:

- Conduct regular environmental impact assessments.
- Design and implement biodiversity conservation programs.

Employees, Franchisees & Master Franchisees:

- Engage in training programs to understand biodiversity practices.
- Contribute actively to sustainability initiatives.

Suppliers and Partners:

- Align their practices with Vakrangee's environmental commitments.
- Incorporate sustainable practices in their operations.

7. Commitments and Initiatives

Vakrangee is committed to taking actionable steps toward biodiversity preservation, including:

1. Tree Plantation Programs:

- Organize drives to increase green cover.
- Focus on planting native species to restore ecological balance.

2. Water Management:

- Install systems for rainwater harvesting and water recycling.
- Encourage efficient water usage across all facilities.

3. Plastic Reduction:

- Promote alternatives to single-use plastics.
- Deploy innovative waste reduction tools such as bottle crushers.

4. Waste Segregation:

- Ensure proper segregation and recycling of waste.

- Partner with authorized recycling vendors to minimize landfill disposal.

5. Community Involvement:

- Engage with local communities to raise awareness about biodiversity.
- Support community-led conservation projects.

6. Sustainable Sourcing:

- Prioritize eco-friendly, energy-efficient, and biodegradable products.

7. Compliance and Innovation:

- Stay updated on environmental regulations and adopt innovative solutions to reduce the ecological footprint.

8. Future Vision

Vakrangee envisions a future where economic development and environmental preservation coexist. Through consistent efforts to conserve biodiversity and reduce its ecological footprint, Vakrangee aims to become a leader in sustainable practices. The Company shall drive to decrease emission and help to become Net Zero / net positive impact (NPI) by 2035 which will help to factors in our commitment towards protecting our surroundings.

By implementing this policy, Vakrangee commits to protecting the environment, raising awareness, and contributing to a sustainable world for future generations.

Thank You

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