

**BUTALEJA DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
(NEMA)**

**BUTALEJA DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

**DRAFT 002**

**May, 2008**

## FOREWORD

Butaleja District is one of the country's new Local Government establishments located along an important section of the Lake Kyoga catchment at the point where river Manafwa enters Lake Kyoga, and along the Mpologoma river stretch, which is one of the most important wetlands in Eastern Uganda. Butaleja District is also the home to Uganda's most famous paddy rice scheme the Doho rice scheme and the community within the District are ardent rice growers. Butaleja is a break away from Tororo District and much of the shared resources for environment and natural resources management are not available anymore. This is a challenge for the district to start a new process of planning and budgeting, but is also viewed as an opportunity for more focused attention to environment management and implications for the people in the district.

In the early years of formation of the District it was agreed that mainstreaming of the environment be a major focus. To that end, the District developed a Development Plan that captured environment in all the activities. There is also a strong realisation that the wetlands are a major resource in ensuring the sustainability of the livelihoods of the people. Some initiatives have been undertaken in ensuring that the wetlands are used sustainably. This area certainly needs a lot more attention and has been addressed with in the policy.

The other major concerns for the District are that Butaleja inherited a poor forestry management regime with a significant number of trees in the District harvested and there is a clear shortage of trees for timber, and fuel. There is a need to urgently focus on this and this is reflected in the policy. Other issues such as capacity are being addressed under parallel structures of the Local Government, although additional help within the policy has been articulated.

Like all other new Districts, Butaleja District has an enormous revenue shortfall and it can not appropriately focus on environment management. It is hoped that with a well articulated environment management policy and through interactions with development partners, private sector and the central government there will be opportunities to develop initiatives that will ensure sustained funding for environment management in the District.

Butaleja District Council appreciates the efforts of its technical staff, NEMA and its appointed associates and partners particularly UNEP and UNDP, for the assistance rendered to assist the District in developing this policy. We hope that this will be the first in a long line of initiatives, to ensure sustainable and productive use of the environment and natural resources in the District to support livelihoods and ensure conservation and sustainability at the same time

Mr. Waya

District Chairman

Butaleja District Council

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	2
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	4
1.1 Status and location of Butaleja District .....	4
1.2 Analysis Environment Issues in Butaleja District.....	4
1.2.1 Forests .....	4
1.2.2 Soil erosion and fertility decline.....	4
1.2.3 Land resource tenure and Land use .....	4
1.2.4 Wetlands.....	5
1.2.5 Cross-departmental environmental concerns.....	5
1.3 Poverty and Livelihood Analysis .....	6
1.3.1 Poverty analysis.....	6
1.3.2 Poverty pockets in Butaleja District .....	7
1.3.3 Women and poverty.....	8
1.4 Environment and Natural Resources - SWOT Analysis.....	9
2.0 BUTALEJA DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT POLICY .....	11
2.1 Overall goal.....	11
2.2 Policy objective.....	11
2.3 Guiding principles of the policy.....	11
3.0 CROSS CUTTING POLICY STATEMENTS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES .....	13
3.1 Land resource tenure and Land use .....	13
3.2 Environmental education, human resource development, and information .....	13
3.3 Conservation of biological diversity .....	14
3.5 Water resource conservation.....	14
3.6 Wetlands conservation and management .....	15
3.7 Financing environment management .....	16
3.8 Environmental Impact Assessment .....	16
3.9 Control of pollution, management of domestic, industrial waste & hazardous waste	17
3.10 Climate.....	17
3.11 Population, health and human settlements.....	17
3.11 Gender integration .....	18
4.0 DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC POLICY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES.....	20
4.1 Crop and livestock farming systems.....	20
4.2 Forestry conservation and management .....	20
4.4 Fisheries and other aquaculture resources conservation and management.....	22
4.5 Energy.....	22
5.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION .....	23
5.1 Environmental legislation.....	23
5.2 Institutional framework.....	23
5.3 The role of civil society organizations in environmental policy implementation .....	24
5.4 Cross-district and cross (international) boundary resources management.....	24
5.5 Monitoring and evaluation.....	25

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DEAP	District Environment Action Plan
DPTC	District Technical Planning Committee
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
LEC	Local Environment Committee
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Climate Change and Desertification

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Status and location of Butaleja District**

Butaleja District was established in July 2005; the planning for 2007-08 commenced in October 2006 with the District Executive Committee holding meetings to determine inter-sectoral priorities as identified in the previous DDP 2006/07 – 2008/09 to be rolled over 2007-08 and determined indicative planning figures. Butaleja was created out of Tororo District when Bunyole County was cut away to create the new District. Butaleja District is located in Eastern Uganda, borders Mbale in the East, Bugiri to the west, Palisa to the north and Tororo to the south with a population of 194,500 people, 93,300 males and 101,200 females as of 2007 population projections.

### **1.2 Analysis of environment issues in Butaleja District**

#### **1.2.1 Forests**

Natural forest in Butaleja has been cleared to create fields for crop and livestock production, raw materials for construction and furniture, fuel for cooking and burning bricks. Deforestation took place 30 years back as a result for a need for more arable land, and also due to population pressure (307 density, 3.6% growth rate), which was responsible for the de-vegetation. Vegetation losses continue up to today due to economic situations of wide spread poverty. Over harvesting of the *Milicia exelsa* trees is rampant without remedial activities of replanting by the community. This is an issue requiring agent attention of Butaleja District Local Government. People should be sensitized and availed with tree planting materials to make up for the tree loss.

#### **1.2.2 Soil erosion and fertility decline**

Due to of vegetation and cultivation without fallow in most of the parishes, there is soil erosion and leaching of nutrients. Soil fertility decline is observable on the declining crop and pasture yields. Soil analysis reports indicate low organic matter below 6.8% which is the critical level.

Road construction has lead to excavation of Murram which has created barrow pits, most of which are not refilled hence becoming an environmental issue however, currently all contracts to be signed have provisions for filling these pits

#### **1.2.3 Land resource tenure and Land use**

Total land area of Butaleja District is 644 square-kms with four land tenure systems. These include Leasehold 3%; Mailo Land 41%; Free hold 9%; and Customary 90% Prior to the 1992

Ranch Restructuring Scheme, there were just a few Ranchers owning very huge chunks of land. The Restructuring saw several land owners emerge albeit with small acreages i.e. the result of splitting huge ranches into several smaller portions. There are several landowners now, all with Leasehold land. Absentee Landlords largely own the Mailoland. Much of this land was estates of big acreages. The situation is now changing with many of these mailo land estates being apportioned into smaller areas.

Due to the absence of vegetation and cultivation without fallow in most of the parishes, there is soil erosion and leaching of nutrients. Soil fertility decline is observable on the declining crop and pasture yields. Soil analysis reports indicate low organic matter below 6.8% which is the critical level. Road construction has led to excavation of murrum which has created barrow pits, most of which are not refilled hence posing an environmental concern.

#### **1.2.4 Wetlands**

Population pressures on uplands for crop production has pushed the community to reclaim wetlands for crop production especially rice. Major wetlands are still in existence in Butaleja. However, the reclamation and rice cultivation continue to reduce the remaining wetlands. District Wetland Action Plan and DEAP programmes were initiated in the district with the help of NEMA to mitigate the negative impacts and help restore degraded lands.

Another problem is the mushrooming trading centres and towns setup without physical planning and no solid waste disposal systems. Latrines are lacking in markets while roadside eating houses operate under unhygienic conditions. Some homes also lack pit latrines, and school sanitation is below the expected standard. There is need for vigorous supervision, if good health status is to be maintained and disease outbreak is to be prevented.

Other issues include overgrazing, riverbank cultivation, hill slope cultivation, and quarrying and road works impacts. Many issues continue to come up as the population grows. There is an urgent need for concerted efforts to ensure the sustainable management of the natural resources and environment.

#### **1.2.5 Cross-departmental environmental concerns**

Development projects, their impact on environment and proposed mitigation measures; in line with sound environment management principles integration of environment concerns in development endeavours is pertinent as should be addressed in the DEAP. Most projects to be undertaken should be environmentally friendly, for instance soil conservation and tree planting, however some projects that have impact on the environment have been analyzed and mitigation measures proposed , by department:

- a) Education: construction of classrooms, staff quarters and latrine, deforestation, solid waste generation, soil erosion, creation of habitat for bats
- b) Health: construction of a placenta pit, construction of staff houses, construction of pit latrines, construction of health units, destruction of vegetation cover, solid waste disposal, loss of artetic value, soil erosion.

- c) Water: Deep/shallow well construction, depletion of ground water when motorised pumping is used, stagnant water at drawing points, loss of individual land for structure and access
- d) Education/health: Procurement of furniture for pupils in schools and health facilities, deforestation.
- e) Works and technical services: Construction of feeder roads, destruction of vegetation cover, soil erosion, creation of burrow pits
- f) Water and Sanitation: Existing facilities in the District include: (i) 10 protected springs; (ii) 16 shallow wells; (iii) 288 tap stands; (iv) 258 deep boreholes; and (v) nil Gravity scheme flows. The District's safe water coverage stands, based on the population served, at 47%, well below the national average 61.8%.
- g) natural resources: Tree nursery establishment, destruction of vegetation cover, solid waste disposal, soil erosion, introduction of dangerous chemicals to the environment

### 1.2.6 Environmental health issues

Over 80% of the top ten causes of ill-health among the population of Butaleja District are preventable. They are:

1. Malaria (accounts for 46% of OPD attendance and 23% of admissions);
2. ARI;
3. Diarrhoeal diseases;
4. Intestinal worms;
5. HIV/AIDS;
6. Malnutrition;
7. Trauma;
8. Pregnancy related diseases;
9. Eye conditions; and
10. Skin diseases

### 1.3 Poverty and Livelihood Analysis

#### 1.3.1 Poverty analysis

Chronic development challenges face Butaleja District as illustrated with development indicators below;

**Table 1: Chronic development challenges face Butaleja District**

Chronic development challenges	
Mortality – for every 1000 birth	99 deaths within 1 <sup>st</sup> year 86 deaths before their 5th year
Life Expectancy	47 years
Fertility rate	6.91
Literacy rate	50.6% (F 37.7% : M 62.3%)
Estimated population living on > \$1.0/day	58%

**Source: Butaleja District Planning Unit 2007**

Given the above distressing state of affairs and based on service provision indicators presented under the sectoral situational analysis, the problem analysis undertaken by the different technical departments, Butaleja District Local Government identified the major core problem as low household incomes.

With low household income the following will result (effects): narrow district revenue base; poor health; low level of education; low productivity; reduction of the human life span; AND low standards of living

### 1.3.2 Poverty pockets in Butaleja District

The general level of poverty is adverse in the rural areas that are isolated from basic services however there are some few urban areas that are severely affected. The notable areas include: some parts of Nawanjofu, Budumba, Mazimasa and the western part of Kachonga in Butaleja district, however, this is not to say that other areas of the district are not affected by poverty. The following are some of the indicators for justifying the level to which the named areas are affected by poverty;

Additionally, unequal sharing of resources within a household reflects cultural factors as well as unequal gender relations. Poverty manifests itself also as a society wide phenomenon, including insecurity, low quality of public services, the scarcity of jobs and the lack of physical, technical and health information throughout society.

The main source of livelihood is agriculture followed by livestock, and fishing. The other sources of livelihood are derived from non-farming activities such as employment in the civil service, businesses, services etc. There is an increasing trend towards non-farming activities due to uncertainty and seasonality of agricultural produce/income and also increase in new demands for households e.g. paying for tertiary education and health services. Below is the source of livelihood in the district by percentage.

**Table 2: Source of livelihood in the district by percentage**

Source	Percent
Agrarian population	77.9
Commercial farmers	0.35
Trading	6.79
Cottage industries	0.42
Employment income	11.3
Property income	0.46
Family support	3.65
others	0.27

**Source: Butaleja District Planning Unit**

Very few women work in the formal sector with 19.2% of the total labour force. The women are generally poor without independent sources of income and so have less access to resources. Culture and low education among women are some of the factors that explain this scenario.



### **1.3.3 Women and poverty**

The impact on women is greater as a result on poverty especially in respect to roles and responsibilities, and attempts at managing the household consumption and production under the conditions of scarcity. Women's unpaid labour relieves the state of social responsibilities. For example women look after the sick and elderly in the absence of medical care, and keep school going children at home when there is no school fees. Women's health is at risk in the AIDS era, and their education gets adversely affected, as girls are the first ones to be with drawn out of school when parents fail to pay school fees.

#### 1.4 Environment and Natural Resources - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• availability of skills to raise tree seedlings and provide knowledge on environment protection; and</li> <li>• availability of a wide range of natural resources</li> <li>• small sized district and manageable</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• poor attitudes towards tree planting;</li> <li>• limited land for agriculture leading to encroachment on fragile ecosystems;</li> <li>• inadequate staffing;</li> <li>• low adoption rate for new technologies;</li> <li>• lack of basic facilities and equipment;</li> <li>• inadequate funds; and</li> <li>• lack of byelaws and ordinances</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conducive weather;</li> <li>• availability of natural resource use policies;</li> <li>• availability of options for waste management; and</li> <li>• good political environment</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• high prices of tree seeds;</li> <li>• pests and diseases;</li> <li>• high cost of environmental mitigation measures;</li> <li>• limited funding;</li> <li>• rapid climatic changes;</li> <li>• rapid population increases; and</li> <li>• forest encroachment</li> </ul>

#### 1.5 Challenges related to the environment and natural resources and strategies

##### Challenges

- encroachment and degradation of wetlands by rice growers;
- reduction in tree coverage due to rampant tree cutting attributed to the Land Act 1998 which vests ownership of trees to land owners;
- newly created District lacks funds and logistical support;
- confusion by public due to structural changes in the Forest sector;
- high prices and unavailability of economically viable tree species such as pines;
- tree growing not priority by farmers due to long maturity and management costs;
- severe soil degradation due to poor farming methods;
- poor accessibility to safe water among many households;
- land conflicts;
- lack of land use plans;
- no Central Government Conditional Grant for the sector;
- conflicting information on natural resources use; and
- overexploitation or depletion of natural resources

##### Strategies

- promote sustainable exploitation of natural resources for development;
- mainstream environment management in all service delivery sectors;
- carry out environment awareness campaigns;
- protect wetlands, forest reserves and biodiversity associated with them;
- carry out physical planning of urban centres;

- register all land owned;
- identify and rehabilitate forest reserves;
- recruit and build the capacity of staff in the sector;
- enforce laws and regulations on the use of forestry resources;
- register and licence pit sawyers; and
- expand District tree nurseries

## **2.0 BUTALEJA DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

### **2.1 Overall goal**

The overall goal of the environment policy is sustainable social and economic development which maintains or enhances environmental quality and resource productivity on a long-term basis in Butaleja District.

### **2.2 Policy objective**

1. To have sustainable environment and natural resources management which is the foundation of the livelihoods of the community, and will also become a major focal issue integrated into the District Development Plan.

### **2.3 Guiding principles of the policy**

The following key principles will guide policy development and implementation strategies:

- (i) Every person has a constitutional right to live in a healthy environment and an obligation to keep the environment clean;
- (ii) The development of District's economy should be based on sustainable natural resource use and sound management;
- (iii) Security of land and resource tenure is a fundamental requirement of sustainable natural resource management;
- (iv) Long-term food security depends on sustainable natural resource and environmental management;
- (v) The utilization of non-renewable resources should be optimized and where possible their life extended by recycling;
- (vi) Environmentally friendly, socially acceptable and affordable technologies should be developed and disseminated for efficient use of natural resources;
- (vii) Full environmental and social costs or benefits foregone as a result of environmental damage or degradation should be incorporated in public and private sector planning and minimised where possible;
- (viii) Social and economic incentives and disincentives should complement regulatory measures to influence people's willingness to invest in sustainable environmental management;
- (ix) The enforcement of environmentally related laws should be taken as a priority for sustainable natural resource and environmental management;
- (x) Priority should be given to establishing a social and economic environment which provides appropriate incentives for sustainable natural resource use and environmental management;
- (xi) An integrated and multi-sectoral systems approach to resource planning and environmental management should be put in place;

- (xii) Regular monitoring and accurate assessment of the environment should be carried out and the information widely publicized;
- (xiii) Conditions and opportunities for communities and individual resource managers to sustainably manage their own natural resources and the environment should be created and facilitated;
- (xiv) Effective involvement of women and youth in natural resource policy formulation, planning, decision making, management and program implementation is essential and should be encouraged;
- (xv) Increased awareness and understanding of environmental and natural resource issues by Government and the public should be promoted;
- (xvi) Social equity, particularly when allocating resource use should be promoted; and
- (xvii) Sub-regional, regional and global environmental interdependence should be recognized.

### 3.0 CROSS CUTTING POLICY STATEMENTS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

#### 3.1 Land resource tenure and Land use

Policy Statement: To ensure improved land resource tenure, equity in stewardship and appropriate land use practices in Butaleja District

##### Objective

- 1) To promote improved land stewardship for all land users including a better definition of, and strengthening, land and resource tenure rights

##### Strategies

- (i) Support the operationalisation of the Land Act 1998 in the District, through the set structures of District Land Board, Area Land Committee, and the Lands Office.
- (ii) Support new leases, and strengthen tenure that leads to increased sustainable practices on land (e.g. forestry, agro-forestry, aquaculture, etc.)
- (iii) Develop land use plans for public wetlands and prohibit environmentally unacceptable land use practices
- (iv) Subject public land leases to the environmental impact assessment process.

#### 3.2 Environmental education, human resource development and environmental information

**Policy Statement:** To strengthen the various institutions and structures that the district has set up to handle environmental management. These include Local Environment Committees (LECs) from village to sub-county level, and other district organs like the Council, the District Executive Committee, the District Technical Planning Committee (DTPC) and Sister Sectors.

##### Objective

- 1) To provide adequate resources (physical, financial and human) allocated to environment information development, and awareness creation;
- 2) To ensure an appropriate institutional structure for environment information generation and provision through the local environment committees, political leaders, civil society and communities.
- 3) To develop capacity building programmes for non-technical environment and natural resources stakeholders in the District such as local environment committees, land committees, town councils and their boards, councillors, and the District and sub-county executive.
- 4) Promote both public and private participation in environment related issues

##### Strategies

1. Regular development of District State of Environment Reports and capacity building for staff in the District Natural Resources Department;
2. Include a sufficient budget for environment information generation and awareness within the District Natural Resources Department Budget;
3. Encourage the inclusion of environment information and awareness in projects that are likely to impact on the environment and natural resources in the District.
4. Capacity building for non-technical/community staff in environment related issues

### **3.3 Conservation of biological diversity**

**Policy statement:** To ensure that the biodiversity of the District is conserved and proper accountability taken.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To ensure that the biodiversity within the District is sustainably maintained within the existing ecosystems;
- 2) To develop programmes for ensuring that wetlands and agro-ecosystem species that could be lost are mapped and kept in a gene bank;
- 3) To protect the rights of local communities over the genetic resources that are locally available; and
- 4) To encourage sustainable investment initiatives into the biodiversity of the District.

#### **Strategies**

1. Develop either a biodiversity policy for the District or a plan for the management of the of biodiversity in the District to include both biodiversity in protected areas and in unprotected areas;
2. Develop an investment strategy/plan based on the biodiversity resources of the District;
3. Promote active participation of the local communities together with investors in the biodiversity based opportunities available such as tourism and ecotourism
4. To develop pricing mechanisms for the biodiversity resources of the District such as organic agriculture, ecotourism that reflect the true value of the ecosystem services being sold.
5. Regular participation of the local communities in planning of the District's natural resources

### **3.5 Water resource conservation**

**Policy statement:** To reduce aquatic resources abuses that have yielded less success due to poor attitude from the resource users towards management of watersheds and counter depletion of ground water resources.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To ensure that the water resources in the District are managed sustainably to provide the same level of ecosystems services to future generations as to the current generation;
- 2) To ensure that the quality of the lake and river water systems does not deteriorate to a level where it threatens the health of users and the fauna and flora in and around the water systems; and
- 3) To ensure good management of the watersheds which contribute water to the existing water resources systems in the District.

### **Strategies**

1. To have water resource use plans developed in a participatory manner with the community and operational throughout the District;
2. Increased investment in water for domestic use and production, by increasing the number of boreholes and repairing systems regularly to ensure continued operation.
3. To be able to reduce the distance moved to the water collection points from 5km to at most 1 km.
4. Introduce ecosystem based approaches to the management of water systems within the District, in a participatory manner under the supervision of the water resource committees, the District Water Departments and Environment and Natural Resources Department.
5. Develop watershed or catchment area-wide plans that include upstream and down stream communities, ecosystems and ecosystems services to ensure sustained availability of the water shed properties of the catchments.

### **3.6 Wetlands conservation and management**

**Policy statement:** To mitigate the negative impacts and help restore degraded wetlands, and establish tools for long-term management of the wetlands.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To manage wetlands in such a way that they continue to provide the basic environmental functions and services to the community which range from provisions of water, food, crafts, to air purification and biodiversity modification among others.
- 2) To immediately halt the extinction of important wetlands in the District.

#### **Strategies**

1. All vital wetlands must have wetland management plans drawn by the wetland users;
2. Inventory of wetlands should be carried out in every year to determine their biodiversity status;
3. Protect the biodiversity potential of wetlands;
4. Any body found burning a wetland should be subjected to law (bush burning act)



### **3.7 Financing environment management**

Policy Statement: To increase financial resources available for ENR management within the district.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To increase the local revenue generated from the Districts Environment and Natural Resources;
- 2) To identify new opportunities for and increase the level of investment into the Environment and Natural Resources of the District;

#### **Strategies**

1. Develop a long-term business plan for the ENR sector of the District;
2. To increase the level of information available on the business opportunities in the District's ENR sector among investors, through shows and media notices and briefings.

### **3.8 Environmental Impact Assessment**

**Policy statement:** undertake measures to ensure that all infrastructure development for roads and buildings and others adequate comply with national EIA regulations.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To increase the level of compliance with conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Audits.
- 2) To increase coordination between the District Environment and Natural Resources Officers and other District Technical staff in the monitoring and evaluation of project compliance to the Environment Impact Statement.
- 3) To encourage regular assessments of the Districts Environment and Natural Resources both from a local perspective and a national perspective.

#### **Strategies**

1. Ensure enforcement of regulations on conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Audits, through increased support to the responsible District staff.
2. Increase the participation of the District Environment Officer in the monitoring and evaluation of project compliance to the Environment Impact Statement.
3. Promote the opportunities by conducting regular assessments of the District's environment and natural resources, to national and international development stakeholders.

### **3.9 Control of pollution and management of domestic and industrial waste and hazardous waste**

**Policy Statement:** ensure appropriate measures are in place for the management of wastes including organic waste, inorganic waste, and hazardous waste.

#### **Objective**

- 1) Provide an orderly and environmentally friendly waste management practices that cause no threat to the environment
- 2) To safe guard health of people through ensuring proper disposal of waste products.

#### **Strategies**

1. All wastes should be sorted according to category of degradation before discharge;
2. Polythene paper should not be burnt locally but rather through a special incinerator or collected and buried in deep holes 6 ft below the ground;
3. Organic recycling should be encouraged for bio-degradable waste;
4. No burning of trash should be acceptable but recycling it for soil recharge

### **3.10 Climate**

**Policy Statement:** Ensure that Butaleja District has an appropriate set of tools to counter the consequences of changes in the climate and to undertake activities that reduce adversity to the climate.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To increase the adaptation within the District to the severe climate conditions among the pastoral communities and farming communities.

#### **Strategies**

1. Increase information and train communities on the livelihoods and land use opportunities available within the climate systems of the area.
2. Initiate activities for implementation of the climate change and desertification adaptation in the District, through operationalising the United Nations Convention on the Control of Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

### **3.11 Population, health and human settlements**

**Policy Statement:** Integrate population, health and human settlements information in the management of the environment and in turn ensure that environmental criteria are used in making decisions on population, health and human settlements in the District

## **Objective**

1. To reduce the incidence poor hygiene sanitation related diseases like eye diseases, skin diseases, intestinal worms and Diarrhoea disease that are rampant at the district; reduce the incidence of malaria in the District through undertaking preventive activities; and reduce the proliferation of behavioural diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
2. To improve the coordination in the movements of people from the neighbouring districts and out of the District so as to track their needs and potential for human and livestock diseases.
3. To ensure that settlements within the District follow the District and National Land Use Plans
4. Integrate religious settings in relation to population health settlements, health and gender
5. Integrate cultural issues
6. Identify research problems that are related to population.

## **Strategies**

1. Increase safe water coverage in the district by; providing protected wells, boreholes, shallow wells and rainwater catchments tanks; increase the number of the toilet facilities and hand-washing facilities.
2. Training on malaria, HIV/AIDS and other environmental diseases prevention practices within the communities
3. A bye-law on the movement of people and livestock across the District's boundary.
4. Implementation of the national land use policy, Act and similar District regulations.

### **3.11 Gender integration**

***Policy statement:*** to reduce the gap between the levels of income among men and women, the low women participation in development activities, and the low property ownership and control.

## **Objective**

- 1) To increase the participation of women, and poor people in decision making over the use of the environment and natural resources such as land rights

## **Strategies**

1. Enforcement of the national laws; the Land Act, enactment of the Domestic Relations Bill.
2. Mainstreaming Gender issues into the District's Development Plans, policies and frameworks.

3. Provide increased sensitization on gender roles and responsibilities. Gender biased planning in favour of women, implement affirmative action and promotion of girl child education.

## **4.0 DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC POLICY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES**

### **4.1 Crop and livestock farming systems**

**Policy statement:** Mainstream environmental concerns in the decision making undertaken in agricultural (crop and livestock) extension, production and marketing in the District.

#### **Objective**

- 1) To ensure infrastructure development for better training environment, a source of livelihood in the district by percentage and enhance adoption of new technologies that lead to sustainable production practices.
- 2) To minimize crop production losses due to pests and diseases
- 3) To support enforcement of environmental policy options that lead to the control of animal diseases, such as restricted animal movement
- 4) To promote production practices in environment and natural resources that provide additional ecosystem services beyond their agro-ecosystems including promoting modern bee keeping in forest areas;

#### **Strategies**

1. Adopt practices of sustainable land management so as to counter soil erosion, soil compaction and the loss of soil productivity observed within the District including among others agro-forestry, good agronomic practices, and organic farming practices;
2. To encourage vertical integration within agriculture among crop farmers, pastoralists and farmers diversification
3. Training farmers on diversification of income opportunities through re-tooling farmers into more than just one form of livelihood practice;
4. Encourage the use of Irrigation for agriculture and increase water for production
5. Promote Zero grazing

### **4.2 Forestry conservation and management**

**Policy statement:** To ensure that forestry production, extension and investment activities in the District integrate the Districts' vision of sustainable environment management, conservation and equity for all the resource users and owners.

#### **Objectives**

- 1) To increase the forest cover within the District by encouraging the growth of private plantations to support the wood fuel and timber shortage in the District;
- 2) Encourage the growth of trees with the farming systems through approaches such as agro-forestry, green manure and forage tree production;

- 3) To develop a curriculum that includes tree planting and management in the District's primary and secondary schools

### **Strategies**

1. Wood saving practices should be promoted at all levels of forestry resource utilization;
2. Develop a by-law on forestry production and management within the District to include planting trees in public lands, road reserves and institutions with trees species recommended by the forestry officer; sustainable harvesting of trees that involves measures that would lead to replenishment ability.
3. All vital and threatened wetlands should be allowed to have forest tree species rejuvenated at their banks;
4. There shall be a wide spread sensitisation programme on forestry resource management targeting the school going population and farmers;
5. A fund be set aside to support forestry activities especially community tree nurseries;
6. More land be gazetted as local forest reserves for tree planting;
7. Develop an ecotourism site especially along Mpologoma river one of the biodiversity rich spots, to promote nature conservation and to generate income for the district;
8. An agro forestry demonstration site should be developed to help farmers identify different agro forestry practices.

#### **4.4 Fisheries and other aquaculture resources conservation and management**

**Policy statement:** Mainstream environmental concerns in the decision making undertaken in fisheries extension, production and marketing in the District.

##### **Objective**

1. To increase the capacity of the local fisheries management committees to manage the Districts fisheries resources;
2. To encourage the fisheries industry in the District through increasing investment into fish farming;
3. To protect the biodiversity of the fisheries resource in the District.

##### **Strategies**

1. Develop a programme for regular awareness raising to encourage fish farming and encourage sustainable use of wetlands and diversification that allows for fish farming.
2. Regular monitoring of the biodiversity of the fisheries in the District and mainstream biodiversity conservation into the District Fisheries Management Plan.

#### **4.5 Energy**

**Policy statement:** Mainstream environmental concerns in the decision making undertaken in energy, production and use decisions in the District.

##### **Objective**

- 1) To increase the number of alternatives of energy sources used within the District and reduce the over dependence on wood fuel and charcoal.

##### **Strategies**

1. Encourage investment into wood lots and sustainable energy production schemes such as solar energy production and use of other forms of biomass such as solid waste, and livestock and human waste for the production of biogas;

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

### **5.1 Environmental legislation**

Policy implementation will involve the successive detailing of policy from the level of intent (as expressed in the above policy statements) through to the structuring of actions required to achieve intended policy outputs and impacts. The first of these actions is to create and establish an appropriate institutional and legal framework. Once these actions are undertaken, a monitoring and evaluation system should be developed to assess the impact of policies and actions on the environment, the population and the economy.

#### **Objective:**

Most of the existing legislation is of a national sectoral nature, and does not fit inadequately with the institutional arrangements at the District level. It is therefore out of phase with current environmental issues facing the current Districts, especially in regard to defining the implementing officers and their powers. These deficiencies have had a significant negative impact on natural resources and environment management.

#### **Strategies are to:**

1. Enact district bye laws to complement national legislation on environment and involve the local people in formulation of the bye laws
2. Improve environmental law and bye law enforcement
3. Involve the local population in enforcement of national environmental laws and district bye laws on the environment

### **5.2 Institutional framework**

The institutional arrangements at the District level give enormous power to the mainstream Technical Department heads and very little leverage to the cross-cutting departments. As a result several departmental heads limit the amount of work they delegate to their colleagues in the cross-cutting departments. The arrangements of supervision, monitoring and evaluation are often informal and create a lot of room for non-execution.

#### **Objective:**

- 1) Regularize the institutional relationship between the Environment and Natural Resources Department and the other Departments at the District; and
- 2) Increase the profile of mainstreaming environment into the District Development Plans and Budget.

#### **Strategies are to:**



1. Mainstream the environment formally into the District Development Planning and Budgeting processes
2. Define the powers of the environment officers and other natural resources officers in any subsequent by-laws developed
3. Carryout trainings and awareness raising on mainstreaming environment into the District, and sub-district planning and budgeting processes.

### **5.3 The role of civil society organizations in environmental policy implementation**

Non-Governmental organisations provide a pivotal role in mobilising and sensitizing the masses about environmental issues. They therefore supplement the efforts of the public sector and help in ensuring that the concerns of the underprivileged are incorporated in the national development process.

#### **Objective:**

- 1) Encourage and increase the participation of civil society organizations in the management of the environment and natural resources.

#### **Strategies are to:**

1. Create CSO working groups on environment and natural resources within the District;
2. Increase the occasions for interface between District Planning, Budgeting, Implementation and monitoring and evaluation teams with the CSOs in the District;
3. Lobby for additional support to and through CSOs that have an active role in environment management; and
4. Participate in the monitoring and evaluation and in planning to improve on the service delivery of CSOs working within the District.

### **5.4 Cross-district and cross (international) boundary resources management**

Due to the complexity and transboundary nature of environmental issues, there is increased concern for a regional approach to redressing these issues. This concern forms an important operational basis for enhancing sound management and conservation of environmental resources. Unfortunately, some regional and international conventions and protocols on environmental management have not been implemented.

#### **Objective:**

- 1) To optimally and equitably draw benefits from the cross-District natural resources without hurting the benefits the citizens of the other Districts.

#### **Strategies are to:**

1. Butaleja district should closely cooperate with neighbouring districts especially in the management of cross boundary natural resources or environmental issues.

## **5.5 Monitoring and evaluation**

Development is perceived as the best social progress in human activities leading to better life. However it compromises the quality of the natural environment. This therefore calls for sustainable development of which generations to come must not be subject to suffering due to the current development. Environmental monitoring is therefore essential in as far as ensuring and directing development projects that take place, to ensure sustainability within the environment.

### **Objective:**

- 1) Ensure that environment is sustainably managed and that ecosystems services are drawn from natural resources in a sustainable way;
- 2) Ensure that the resources earmarked for environment and natural resources management and other programmes which mitigate or improve the environment are appropriately used; and
- 3) Ensure that all stakeholders who undertake tasks related to environment and natural resources management not only undertake the tasks but that they are facilitated to do so

### **Strategies**

1. There should be a joint monitoring of programmes for development involving all District departments in their respective activities but doing it in collaboration with the environment and natural resource officer;
2. There should be a special fund to support the environment office/natural resources to carry out environmental monitoring and compliance assistance.

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