

**NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT POLICY

DRAFT 03

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FOREWORD

Nakasongola District is located in Uganda's cattle corridor and it is also one of Uganda's driest Districts. However, the district relies on the natural resources particularly Lake Kyoga to sustain the food income demands of its people. In the past charcoal production was a major commercial enterprise in the District, it has reduced considerably as the number of trees declined but it is still ongoing, at unsustainable rates still. In spite of the heavy destruction of the forests for the charcoal sold to urban areas, there was little to show for it in terms of development or improvement in people's livelihoods. By the last census report of 2002, Nakasongola district was still the poorest districts in central Uganda, and subsequent reports show no improvement in position. Fisheries especially those from Lake Kyoga provide an economy yet a lot of the revenue is taken by boat owners and traders who come from outside the district. The fishing communities have remained largely poor.

As a cattle corridor district with a considerable population of people who also rely on crop production, Nakasongola district has suffered considerably from the soil degradation in the district. The deterioration and degradation of the soil has been brought upon by the high stocking rates of livestock eating up pasture, grasslands and other vegetation at a higher rate than it can regenerate. In addition, the severe temperatures cause drying up of vegetations and crops. This situation has made the district environment status spiral downward and a series of actions are needed to slow down this process, stop it, and take action to mitigate and reverse some of these consequences. This District Environment policy is the appropriate starting tool in revitalising Nakasongola environment status so that the resources for the district Environment and Natural resource can be used to sustain the district food and income needs.

The development of this environment policy has been a long-term effort that started with the District Environment Action Plan (DEAP) and several other documents. This policy should open the door for a lot more initiatives in improved environment management. One of the immediate issues of concern will be sustainable land management and increased support on sustainable management of the Lake Kyoga Fisheries and sustainable tree production and use.

We are grateful for this effort and we look forward to support the operationalisation of the issues articulated in the policy

District chairman Nakasongola

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

DEAP	District Environment Action Plan
DDHS	District Directorate of Health Services
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
NEMA	National Environment Management Authority
UNCCD	United Nations Convention on Climate Change and Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
LAKIMO	Lake Kyoga Integrated Management Organisation

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Status of the Environment and Natural Resources in Nakasongola District

Nakasongola District is located in the north-western part of central region of Uganda and it is made of one county, Buruli county. The district is bordered by Apac and Lira districts to the north, Luwero district in the south, Kayunga district to the east and Masindi to the west. Nakasongola District is composed of five sub-counties (Lwampanga, Kakooge, Kalungi, Nabiswera, Wabinyonyi and Nakasongola Town Council). Lwampanga sub-county has the highest of number of households (5 633) in the subcounty. Nakasongola District had a population of 125 297 people from the last population census (2004). However, the District's population is growing at rate of 2 percent (see table 3.3) less than the national population growth rate of 3.3 percent (UBOS, 2006). The population density of Nakasongola District is one of the lowest in the country at 41 persons per square kilometre. The major environmental problems and challenges in Nakasongola District are articulated in the sections which follow.

1.2 Soil Exhaustion (land degradation)

The rural communities directly depend on land for cultivation and grazing. However, the current pattern of land management and utilization, as well as the increasing demand for land presents numerous environmental challenges. The main causes of land degradation in the district were continuously cited to be soil erosion and lack of soil conservation practices by smallholder farmers, who are the majority. According to the 1991 Agriculture and Livestock census, the total arable land in Nakasongola was estimated to be about 913 km² but only 235km² was under cultivation. Currently, the situation is not much different. Although some parts of the district remain unutilised for various reasons (land tenure system, reserved areas) and not experiencing serious problems related to soil degradation, other parts are being subjected to extensive soil degradation processes leading to soil exhaustion. This has resulted in low agricultural yields with the district.

1.3 Lack of soil conservation practices

There is general lack of awareness of the dangers of soil degradation. Coverage of field extension services from the agricultural sector and related sectors such as forestry are inadequate due to the limited number of extension workers and insufficient logistical support. Farmers have basically depended on their traditional farming methods, which have often exhausted the soil. This is characterised by frequent tillage of soils and annual crops and has led to depletion of the soil of particular nutrients. The farmers also practice intercropping. Intercrops tend to be mutual e.g. maize and cassava, cotton, and maize, cereal and legume, but they all exhaust soil nutrients from all depths of the soil profile.

1.4 Overgrazing

This is as a result of over stocking. Over 60% of the population in Nakasongola rear livestock for their livelihood. Records from the District Veterinary Office indicate that by 1998 the population of cattle increased by 30%. This has been attributed to the high demand for livestock products. However, this has a serious impact on the environment in that the soils have become compacted and exposed to agents of soil erosion. Besides overstocking, other factors that have led to overgrazing are communal grazing, growth in human population, poverty, bush burning, insecurity in the neighbouring districts that has led other cattle keepers to shift to Nakasongola to graze animals, and inadequate extension services as a result of few extension workers and poor facilitation.

1.5 Bush fires

The seasonal burning of grass and bushes occurs widely in Nakasongola district, but is more evident in the cattle grazing areas e.g. Nabiswera, Nakitoma, Kalungi and Lwampanga Sub-counties. It is carried out as part of land preparation for cultivation, or for rejuvenation of pastures, or to facilitate hunting of game. Traditionally the burning of bushes is believed to drive away evil spirits. After the fires, the exposed land is subjected to water erosion in the rainy seasons and to wind erosion during dry periods. Cumulatively smoke from Nakasongola bush fires and elsewhere globally contribute to the build up of atmospheric carbon dioxide and the corresponding global climate change.

1.6 Deforestation

The major underlying causes of deforestation in Nakasongola District include agricultural expansion and charcoal production. The problem is widely distributed in the district but most serious in Lwampanga and Lwabiyata sub-counties, where thousands of bags of charcoal are produced and transported to Kampala and other neighbouring towns every week. Charcoal burning is also very rampant in the remaining sub-counties. Deforestation for agricultural production is very common in Kalongo, Kalungi and Lwabiyata sub-counties where farmers have cleared woodlands in a bid to find fertile land for production of food crops like millet. Population increase is also putting pressure on the woodlands in the district, as more people require land for settlement and grazing.

1.7 Poor environmental health

Only 12% of the households in the district have and use hand-washing facilities after visiting the toilet facility. Out of which only 2% know how to wash their hand properly. As a result, poor hygiene sanitation related diseases like eye diseases (2%), skin diseases (6%), intestinal worms (6%) and Diarrhoea disease (5%) are rampant in the district.

1.8 Low safe water coverage

Safe water coverage is only 49% in the district and is provided through protected wells, boreholes, shallow wells and rainwater catchments tanks. Piped water is only available in the town of Nakasongola, Army barracks and Wabigalo, and even then, this covers only 20% of the town's population. Even then, some of the protected water sources are contaminated, especially those surrounding urban areas, due to poor location of boreholes. There is also some contamination as a result of animal usage of the water sources and siltation due to soil erosion. This is associated with the increase in water-borne diseases such as typhoid, which are noticeably on the increase in the district.

1.9 Inadequate Environmental Awareness

Lack of awareness has repeatedly been pointed out as the cause of most environmental problems in the district. The people are not aware of the likely impacts that would arise when the environment is depleted. For example, they seem not to see the importance of tree planting when they believe there is plenty of woodland around. In addition, contrary to expectation most people have not realized any commercial value from the nurseries developed and trees planted. The tree-seedling market is highly unreliable in the district. The local communities have not had adequate sensitisation seminars to address environment issues, except for the sub-county and parish local environment committees and a few individuals at various levels. There is need to raise environmental awareness addressing all issues in the day-to-day activities of the local communities.

1.10 Wetland Degradation

The district is increasingly experiencing wetland degradation due to overgrazing, burning and encroachment. The District wetlands are located along the stream, rivers and Lake Kyoga, and in the central forest reserves.

1.11 Lake Exhaustion (over fishing)

The high demand for fish coupled with increased fishing effort on Lake Kyoga is leading to its exhaustion. In addition, the increased use of undersize nets (i.e. gill nets of less than 2 ½' / 6.4 cm mesh size), beach seines and the use of traps and cast nets, are also contributing to this depletion. Other wrong fishing methods employed on Lake Kyoga include use of perforated basins to catch silver fish, use of monofilament nets and fishing in breeding grounds. New fishing villages are also mushrooming.

1.12 Inadequate institutional capacity in Environmental management

In the district the Environment Office is mandated to handle all environmental matters. However the office is inadequately facilitated in terms of transport, budgetary allocation and staffing. The two-person manned office cannot adequately cover the entire district to enhance community participation in resource management as spelt out by the NES. Decentralized environmental management is a relatively new concept, therefore calling for a lot of capacity building among the practitioners. The current state of affairs may hinder the transfer of skills and knowledge to the rightful targets, the community. This became vividly clear when lack of environmental awareness was repeatedly pointed out as a causal factor of other environmental problems.

2.0 NAKASONGOLA DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT POLICY

2.1 Overall policy goal

The overall policy goal of this environment policy is to provide a foundation for revitalising the environment and natural resources in Nakasongola District so as to achieve a sustainable social and economic development which maintains or enhances the environmental quality and resource productivity on a long-term basis in Nakasongola District.

2.2 Key policy objectives

- 1) To promote environment and natural resource practices that ensures sustainability and conservation of natural resources.
- 2) To manage the environment in such a way that ensures high quality and accessible health services to reduce morbidity and mortality of the people of the district.
- 3) To use the environment and natural resources in ways that promote optimal household income and food security without compromising regulation, and recreational ecosystem services.
- 4) To integrate environmental concerns in all development policies, planning and activities at national, district and local levels, with full participation of the people.
- 5) To optimise resource use and achieve a sustainable level of resource consumption.
- 6) To raise public awareness understanding and appreciation of the linkages between environment and development.
- 7) To ensure individual and community participation in environmental improvement activities.

2.3 Guiding principles of the policy

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

1. Every person should have a constitutional right to live in a healthy environment and the obligation to keep the environment clean (Art. 39 Uganda Constitution, 1995);
2. sustainable natural resource use and sound management will form the basis for economic development in the District;
3. Security of land and resource tenure is a fundamental requirement of sustainable natural resource management;
4. Long-term food security depends on sustainable natural resource and environmental management;
5. The utilization of non-renewable resources should be optimized and where possible their life extended by recycling;
6. Environmentally friendly, socially acceptable and affordable technologies should be developed and disseminated for efficient use of natural resources;

7. 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;
8. Social and economic incentives and disincentives should complement regulatory measures to influence people's willingness to invest in sustainable environmental management;
9. The enforcement capacity of environmentally related laws should be taken as a priority for sustainable natural resource and environmental management;
10. Priority should be given to establishing a social and economic environment which provides appropriate incentives for sustainable natural resource use and environmental management;
11. An integrated and multi-sectoral systems approach to resource planning and environmental management should be put in place;
12. Regular monitoring and accurate assessment of the environment should be carried out and the information widely publicized;
13. Conditions and opportunities for communities and individual resource managers to sustainably manage their own natural resources and the environment should be created and facilitated;
14. Effective involvement of women and youth in natural resource policy formulation, planning, decision making, management and program implementation is essential and should be encouraged;
15. Increased awareness and understanding of environmental and natural resource issues by Government and the public should be promoted;
16. Social equity, particularly when allocating resource use should be promoted; and
17. Sub-regional, regional and global environmental interdependence should be recognized.

3.0 NON-SECTOR SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 Land and resource tenure

Policy statement: To ensure improved land resource tenure, equity in stewardship and appropriate practices in Nakasongola District.

Objective

- 1) To promote improved and equitable land tenure for all land users including a better definition of, and strengthening, land and resource tenure rights.
- 2) Streamline land stewardship in the district and increase public awareness of land tenure rights of individuals.

Strategies

1. 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.
2. Support new leases, and strengthened tenure that leads to increased sustainable practices on land (e.g. forestry, agro-forestry, aquaculture, etc.)
3. Require new leases of public lands to carry conditions which prohibit environmentally unacceptable land-use practices; and
4. Subject public land leases to the environmental impact assessment process.

3.2 Land use

Policy statement: To encourage sustainable land use initiatives and increased planning before, during land use and when changing from one land use system to another.

Objective

- 1) To encourage sustainable use of fragile ecosystems such as wetlands, forest reserves;
- 2) To reduce the livestock grazing pressure on the grasslands in the District;
- 3) To minimise the probability of conflict between pastoral communities and crop farmers communities;
- 4) To encourage sustainable charcoal and wood fuel production; and
- 5) To minimise the annual burning of bushes and eventually lead to the elimination of the practice.

Strategies

1. Develop and implement community led resource use plans for fragile ecosystems such as wetlands, and forest reserves;

2. Develop and implement a District land use plan and guidelines for land use to enable parish and village authorities to develop their own land use plans and land and water management agreements;
3. To develop an ordinance on the use of fragile ecosystems that will empower District authorities to collect charges and regulate activities that take place on land.
4. Constitute and operationalise land use committees, and the District land boards and land tribunal to resolve the land use conflicts between communities of pastoralist and crop farmers.

3.3 Environmental information, education, human resource development, research, and Public participation in environment management

Policy statement: Ensure provision of appropriate and adequate environment information to the communities, other resource users and knowledge providers and users especially where lack of environmental awareness was repeatedly pointed out as a causal factor of other environmental problems.

Objective

1. To collect, analyze, store, and disseminate on a continuous basis, reliable information relating to environmental management issues at the District. Such information will include: land maps, land use practices, status of natural resources, biodiversity, soil conservation, fuel wood supply and demand and pollution control.
2. To disseminate reliable information on a continuous basis issues through the District, sub counties, perishes and villages

Strategies

1. Train and strengthen the various institutions and structures that the district has set up to handle environmental management and for other district organs like the Council, the District Executive Committee, the Technical Planning Committee (DTPC) and Sister Sectors.
2. Regularly disseminate information and provide training to communities on environment and natural resources management.
3. Strengthen the various institutions structures in the district to develop collection, analysis and storage system
4. Develop an environment and natural resources information feedback mechanics as a new strategy.
5. Support initiatives that ensure that the approval of district and sub county development projects takes into account the EIA provisions as a new strategy
6. Periodically monitor and evaluate environmental and natural resource management activities.

3.4 Conservation of biological diversity

Policy statement: Ensure that the biodiversity in Nakasongola District is conserved in line with National commitments in the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other biodiversity conventions, related national policies and laws and in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

Objective

- 1) To conserve and restore the state of the local biodiversity (the quantity and quality of species composition and abundance of local flora and fauna) of the fisheries, forests, grasslands and other ecosystems in Nakasongola District
- 2) To encourage the sustainable exploration of income opportunities from the local biodiversity resources

Strategies

1. Mainstream biodiversity conservation into the development plans of the District, especially those that deal with use of the local ecosystems.
2. Encourage utilisation of wildlife use rights opportunities such as farming, sport hunting and other initiatives the generate revenue from the local wildlife resources.
3. Adopt and enforce ordinance to promote restoration of wild plants and animals.
4. The use of indigenous plants and animals instead of NGOs.
5. Encourage and support natural strategies on regeneration of indigenous species
6. Sensitise and engage communities in the discovery and utility the importance of indigenous species

3.5 Water resource and Wetlands conservation and management

Policy statement: Ensure sustainable and appropriate practices in the management and conservation of water resources.

Objective

- 1 To ensure increased supply of safe water in the district by increasing the number of protected wells, boreholes, shallow wells and rainwater catchments tanks.
- 2 To increase the productivity of the water and fisheries resources in Nakasongola District leading to increased community livelihoods;
- 3 To ensure safe and stable physical, chemical and biological properties of the water resources in Nakasongola District;
- 4 To encourage community management structure and institutions and their functionality in the development and implementation of water use plans in the District; and
- 5 To reduce aquatic resources abuses on the lake and river resources in the District.

Strategies

- 1 Ensure compliance with Water Act (Cap 152) and by increasing support to the efforts in enforcement.
- 2 Develop a District ordinance on the management of Water systems and resources in the District.
- 3 Ensure the sustainability of water and water systems resource committees (community management structures/institutions) through regular supervision and support of activities.
- 4 To increase the District's capacity to test the physical, chemical and biological properties of the water resources.

3.6 Financing environment management

Policy statement: To support increase financial allocation to the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Department, the District's Environment Management Committees and to sustainably generate more revenue from the ENR of the District that is in turn used for environment management.

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; such as commercial agro-forestry, honey, wild plants and medicinal plants.
- 3) To seek private investors interested to invest in the District's environment and natural resources, including restoration activities.
- 4) To develop a code of practice regulating behaviour of investors in the district's environment and natural resources.

Strategies

1. Undertake valuation studies of the environment and natural resources in the District, and indicate conservation and investments and commercialisation trade-off prospects.
2. Develop a long-term business plan for the ENR sector of the District.
3. 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.
4. Develop codes of practice as part of the District Environment Action Plan (DEAP) and the ENR Business Plan for investment.

3.7 Environmental Impact Assessment

Policy statement: To ensure appropriate implementation of the EIA guidelines with explicit involvement of District environment staff and ensuring compliance with the mitigation measures agreed on in contracts.

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 for conducting regular assessments of the Districts Environment and Natural Resources to national and international development stakeholders.

3.8 Control of pollution and management of domestic and industrial waste and hazardous waste

Policy statement: To ensure the control of pollution and provide adequate tools and knowledge for domestic and hazardous waste management in the District.

Objective

- 1) To reduce the volume of and improve on the handling households waste and disposal of solid waste disposal
- 2) To reduce the volume of silt running into the lake as increased soil-water run off.
- 3) Support activities that lead to decreased tree cover devegetation along the shoreline and grazing in wetlands.
- 4) To halt the ferrying of sandbags to anchor moving suddes
- 5) To increase water source in upland areas to avoid cattle keepers and the livestock moving into lake reserve areas.

Strategies

1. Support the plant trees and other vegetation in the areas surrounding the lake and rivers of the District.
2. support development of ordinance and bye laws of not grazing on the wetlands near the shores
3. Undertake sensitisation activities for the community near the Lake.
4. Punish the culprits using the NEMA laws.
5. encourage the construction more valley dams in upland areas

3.9 Climate

Policy statement: To counter the excessive effects of climate variability and provide a basis for increasing the communities' ability to adapt to the vulnerability associated with climate change.

Objective

- 1) To reduce the vulnerability of the farmers and herdsman to the severe weather regularly experienced in the District.
- 2) To increase the adaptation within the District to the severe climate conditions among the pastoral 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 practices 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).

3.10 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 of poor hygiene and sanitation related diseases such as eye, skin diseases, intestinal worms and diarrhoeal disease which are rampant in the district.
2. Reduce the incidence of malaria in the District through undertaking preventive activities and the proliferation of behavioural diseases such as HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).
3. To improve the coordination in the movements of people and livestock from the neighbouring and out of the District so as to track their needs and potential for human and livestock diseases.
4. To ensure that settlements within the District follow the District and National Land use Plans

Strategies

1. Increase safe water coverage in the district by increasing the number of protected wells, boreholes, shallow wells and rainwater catchments tanks; and sanitation facilities.

2. Train communities in prevention practices for environment related diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDs, diarrhoeal diseases and others.
3. Develop an ordinance and bye-law on the movement of people and livestock across the District's boundary.
4. Support the implementation of the National Land Use Policy (2008), the Land Act (1998) and subsequent amendments and similar District regulations.
5. Support the enforcement of existing law related to hygiene and sanitation

3.11 Gender integration

Policy statement: to increase the level of participation of women in development activities and reduce the gap between the levels of income among men and women.

Objective

- 1) To increase the involvement of women, and other marginalised groups of people in decision making over the use of environmental and natural resources such as land.

Strategies

1. Enforce of the national laws such as the Land Act (1998) and its amendments and other laws relevant to domestic and gender relations.
2. Mainstream gender issues into the District's Development Plans, policies and frameworks.
3. Provide increased sensitization of gender roles and responsibilities and address gender biased planning that disfavour women, and implement affirmative action and promotion of girl child education.
4. Support an expanded discussion, with a view to reform, and changes in cultural norms which are gender biased.

4.0 DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC POLICY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

4.1 Agriculture, Livestock and farming systems

Policy statement: increase the level of environment mainstreaming in the decision making undertaken in agricultural (crop and livestock) extension, production and marketing in the District.

Objective

- 1) To increase sustainably agricultural production in the District to meet the food requirements of the people and their commercial and other livelihoods needs.
- 2) Diversify the agricultural enterprises undertaken in the District to overcome the over dependence on one form of agriculture.
- 3) Increase predictability of the seasonal droughts and preparedness to respond to the most severe weather in the District.
- 4) To stop the unsustainable degrading behaviour of uncontrolled bush burning at the beginning of every season.

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 cultural practices, and organic farming practices.
2. To encourage integration of production and marketing activities in the planning and activities of crop farmers, pastoralists and farmers diversification.
3. Train farmers on diversification of income opportunities.
4. Encourage the use of Irrigation for agriculture and increase water for production.

4.2 Forestry conservation and management and rangelands management

Policy statement: increase the level of environment mainstreaming in the decision making undertaken in forestry extension, production and marketing in the District.

Objective

- 1) To increase the number and volume of ecosystems services that communities and individuals derive from the forests through increased participatory public-private sector partnered forestry and rangelands.
- 2) To reduce the rate of deforestation taking place in the District through imposing restrictions on charcoal and timber production.
- 3) To halt the decline of the biodiversity in the District's forest and restore the degraded biodiversity.

- 4) To encourage the growth of private investment and ownership of forests in the District, as away of enhancing the revenue.
- 5) To completely halt the burning of bush fires in forests within the District.

Strategies

1. Encourage private sector investment by individuals, Institutional and household level woodlots in the district.
2. Develop and implement a strategy for restoring the District's indigenous trees.
3. Develop an ordinance and a bye-law on the harvesting of trees for charcoal, wood fuel and timber, and investment into forestry, levies to be charged by the district.
4. Develop and implement a District forestry management plan
5. Develop and implement a District rangelands management plan.

4.3 Fisheries and other aquaculture resources conservation and management

Policy statement: increase the level of environment mainstreaming 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 develop the standards of the District's fisheries industry to meet the national standards for fish export;
4. To reduce the use of poor and illegal fishing practices in the Districts fisheries, such as undersize nets, beach seines and the use of traps and cast nets.
5. To protect the biodiversity of the fisheries resources in the District.

Strategies

1. Regularise the structures of the Beach Management Units, the Integrated Lake Management Organisation for Lake Kyoga (LAKIMO) and other fisheries management committees in the District, through by-laws, District Fisheries management Plan.
2. Encourage private and institutional investment into fish farming as an alternative to Lake Fishery to reduce the pressure on the Lake.
3. Improve the sanitation of the fisheries handling sites and pursue certification of the standards of the District's fisheries to match national export standards.
4. Develop a programme for regular awareness raising to encourage proper fishing methods, and other related issues such as streamlining fish marketing.
5. Provide further training, facilitation and regular supervision on the roles of the Beach Management Units and other fisheries management committees in the District.
6. Regularly monitor the biodiversity of the fisheries in the District and mainstream biodiversity conservation into the District Fisheries Management Plan.

4.4 Energy

Policy statement: increase the level of environment mainstreaming in the decision making undertaken in energy, production and use decisions within communities and throughout the District.

Objective

- 1) To increase the number of alternatives of energy sources used within the District.
- 2) To 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.
2. To support initiatives that reduce volume of wood fuel and charcoal produced in the District.
3. To encourage growth of private energy forests and trees.

4.5 Wildlife Conservation and Management

Policy statement: To sustainably manage wildlife resources in Nakasongola District in line with the Wildlife Act (1996) Cap 200 and other related polices and laws.

Objective

- 1) Sustainably manage the wildlife resources of the Districts through expanding wildlife use rights and adding wildlife conservation initiatives onto the current package of environment and natural resources management measures.

Strategies

1. Encourage the growth of income generating activities within the wildlife sector in the District.
2. Consult with communities and develop community resource use plans and revenue sharing for wildlife resources.
3. Include wildlife conservation and management of wildlife use rights concerns in any subsequent environment by-laws.
4. Increase coordination with Uganda Wildlife Authority and private and non-governmental organisations engaged in wildlife use and management activities.

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 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. Most of the existing legislation is of a national sectoral nature, and does not fit adequately with the institutional arrangements at the District level. It is therefore out of phase with current environmental issues facing the current Districts, especially with defining the implementing officers and their powers.

Objective:

To develop a policy and subsequent legislation that empowers the District to manage the natural resources in the District in manner that is consistent with the specific needs of the District and the communities living within it without compromising the national objectives.

Guiding principles:

1. Environmental legislation should provide for sustainable development which entails sustainable utilization of environmental resources to meet society's needs for present and future generations;
2. The legislation should be made to suit the political, social, cultural and economic framework of the country;
3. All people in the country should be assured the fundamental right to an environment adequate for their health and well-being;
4. A legal framework should provide a mechanism for formulating ordinances and district bye-laws related to the management of the environment including a framework for environmental standards, the EIA process and polluter pays principle;
5. The legal framework should strengthen rather than take away the sectoral competencies, capabilities and responsibilities;
6. A broad framework for both punitive and incentive measures should be provided;
7. The framework should provide a mechanism for popular participation of the people in the development of national and local policies, laws and plans on environmental management; and
8. Regional and global cooperation should be fostered through agreements, conventions and treaties on sustainable utilization of natural resources and environmental management.

Strategies are to:

1. Enact district an ordinance and bye-laws to complement national legislation on environment and involve the local people in formulation of the bye laws

2. Improve environmental ordinance 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 Technical Department heads and very little leverage to the departments that are cross-cutting. As a result several department heads limit the amount of work they give to their colleagues from 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 within the District; and
- 2) Increase the profile of mainstreaming environment into the District Development Plans and Budget.

Guiding principles:

1. Environmental management needs a "*powerful voice*" to ensure cross-sectoral coordination and management;
2. An environmental management and coordinating institution should avoid implementing activities that can be implemented by sectoral departments and institutions. Broadly, it should limit itself to coordination and advisory roles, overseeing compliance and providing technical support services;
3. Environmental management requires political support for effectiveness at district and community levels;
4. The coordinating institution should be a professional agency that is universally respected and accepted among government departments and other institutions;
5. The institution should be able to respond quickly and decisively to changing circumstances;
6. The institution should have power to seek legal redress for non-compliance of environmental standards; and
7. District officials should be committed and equipped to undertake administrative and technical action necessary to implement the National Environmental Management Policy.

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.

Guiding principles:

1. Sectoral ministries and local authorities should be encouraged to utilize the capabilities of local NGOs in the implementation of environmental activities, taking into account the capabilities of the particular NGO and the specific situation;
2. Particular attention should be directed to those NGOs which provide support and opportunities to the more disadvantaged groups, such as women, the aging and youth;
3. NGOs should be kept informed of and be involved in the DEAP process, especially in the decentralization of DEAP implementation.

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.

Guiding principles:

1. Environmental issues/problems do not respect national or regional boundaries;
2. Uganda should actively participate in regional and global efforts geared to redressing environmental issues and improving the quality of life.

Strategies are to:

1. Nakasongola 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

Guiding principles

1. Team work monitoring of development while advising and directing it in accordance with the national policies and laws;
2. Sustainable development should be a responsibility of all developers at all levels in view of having a clean environment;
3. All government departments and sectors should integrate environment issues in their operation as a basic minimum measure.

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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