BUTALEJA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT POLICY

November, 2009
District Environment Policy - Butaleja

FOREWORD

Butaleja district is one of the country’s newest Local Governments and is bordered by Mbale district in the east, Bugiri district to the west, Pallisa district to the north and Tororo district to the south. Established in July 2005, the district is located within the Lake Kyoga catchment and along the River Mpologoma stretch which is one of the most important wetlands in Eastern Uganda. Butaleja district is also the home of the Doho rice scheme, Uganda’s most famous paddy rice scheme. When Butaleja was made an independent District administration the human, financial and infrastructure resources that were shared with its mother district Tororo were forgone. As such the major challenge for this new district has been starting a new process of planning and budgeting, and maintaining a strong perspective on the environment and the livelihoods of the people in the district.

The district’s economy is almost entirely dependent on its natural resources: wetlands, farmlands, grasslands and livestock production. As such, during these early years of formation, mainstreaming of the environment into the District’s Development Plans has received significant attention. For instance, since the district’s wetlands are a major source of livelihoods of the people sustainable use of the wetlands is one of the District priorities. This Environment Policy deals with all the environment challenges of the district such as sustainable forestry management, land use planning, and sustainable crop, livestock and fisheries production. The policy also recognizes that like all other new districts, Butaleja district has an enormous revenue shortfall and it cannot adequately focus on environment management within the limited financial resources available. Therefore, it is hoped that a well articulated environment management policy and interactions with the development partners, the private sector and the central government, there will be more opportunities to develop initiatives that will ensure sustained funding for environment management in the district. Therefore, in the medium-term, the district has set its sights on enhancing its human resource capacity, and encouraging participation of development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector to partner with the district to sustainably exploit the available natural resources.

Butaleja District Council appreciates the efforts of its technical staff, NEMA and its associates and partners particularly UNEP and UNDP, for the support provided towards developing this Environment 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.

Mr. Waya Richard
District Chairman
Butaleja District Council
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of Butaleja District Local Government, I wish to express our sincere thanks to National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / Poverty and Environment Initiatives (PEI) for both financial and technical support extended to the process that has enabled us produce the first ever Butaleja District Environment Policy. This is quite a positive gesture towards sustainable management of environment and natural resources in the district.

Specifically I would like to thank my technical staff the environment officer, and natural resources department for ably coordinating the consultative exercises that yielded such useful information.

It’s our hope that this document will go along way in reversing the trend of environment degradation that has been escalating day by day and has seen most of our biodiversity disappear. To ensure success, I call upon the district council that has approved this document to embrace and support its implementation.

We pledge to commit ourselves on translating this policy into participatory and practical laws and actions such as ordinances and bye-laws which will in turn transform the status of our environment dependent communities to prosperity.

For God and My Country

F.A.O Oluka
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
BUTALEJA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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**ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARI</td>
<td>Acute Respiratory Infections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOs</td>
<td>Community Based Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSOs</td>
<td>Civil Society Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEAP</td>
<td>District Environment Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>DPTC</td>
<td>District Technical Planning Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTT</td>
<td>District Technical Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENR</td>
<td>Environment and Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEC</td>
<td>Local Environment Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBSAP</td>
<td>National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEMA</td>
<td>National Environment Management Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>STIs</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infections</td>
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<tr>
<td>UBOS</td>
<td>Uganda Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCCD</td>
<td>United Nations Convention on Climate Change and Desertification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNCCD</td>
<td>United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNEP</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNFCCC</td>
<td>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</td>
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</table>
1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Status and location of Butaleja District

Butaleja district was established in July 2005 out of Tororo district when Bunyole County was cut away to create the new district. Administratively Butaleja is composed of seven sub-counties and two Town Councils. The seven sub-counties are: Budumba, Busaba, Busolwe, Butaleja, Kachonga, Mazimasa and Nawanjofu; while the two Town Councils are Busolwe and Butaleja. Butaleja district covers a total land area of 644 sq km. It is located in Eastern Uganda and borders Mbale district in the East, Namutumba and Bugiri districts in the West, Budaka and Palisa in the North and Tororo in the South.

The population of Butaleja district is estimated at 190,400 and is projected to reach 211,200 by 2012 at a population growth rate of 3.3 percent per annum (UBOS, 2007). About 57.4 per cent of the district population are children below 18 years, 6 per cent of the population is aged 65 and above, and 36.7 per cent of the population is the active working group, 18-65 years. According to the 2002 census report, 63.2 per cent of the population live in grass thatched dwelling units; 90.4 per cent of the housing units have floors of rammed earth; 72.3 per cent of the dwelling units are made up by mud and poles, 94.8 per cent of the population is using firewood for cooking, 91.7 per cent of the population is using paraffin (Tadooba) for lighting, 44 per cent of the population has their members taking sugar and the main source of livelihood is subsistence farming taking a percentage of 84.7 per cent. Rice growing is the main economic activity mainly in Mazimasa, Kachonga and Butaleja sub-counties (UBOS, 2002).

1.2 Analysis of environment issues in Butaleja District

1.2.1 Climate

The district has a sub-humid climate with a bimodal rainfall which peaks during the months of May to October. The total rainfall ranges between 1,130 mm and 1,720 mm, temperature ranges between 16.2 and 28.7 degrees Celsius and the relative humidity ranges between 52 per cent and 89 per cent (Butaleja Local Government, 2007). Butaleja district has in the past suffered irregular and unpredictable rainfall patterns that disorganize farmers' cropping seasons.

1.2.2 Forests, woodlands and woody vegetation.

Natural forest in Butaleja has been cleared to create fields for crops and, raw materials for construction and furniture, fuel for cooking and for burning bricks. For the last 30 years a high rate of deforestation has been driven by the increasing population pressure now at 307 persons/sq.km, and excessive tree harvesting sanctioned by the Tororo district authorities (NEMA/UNEP, 2008). Over-harvesting of the native hardwood Milicia exelsa trees is rampant. Moreover, no remedial solutions, conservation or sustainable use strategies are in place.

1.2.3 Soil erosion and fertility decline

Due to the removal of vegetation and cultivation without fallow in most of the parishes, there is soil erosion and leaching of nutrients. Soil fertility decline is observable through evidence of declining crop and pasture yields (NEMA/UNEP, 2008). Soil analysis reports indicate low organic matter, below 6.8 per cent which is the critical level (Pali et al., 2005).

1.2.4 Land resource tenure

The total land area of Butaleja district, 644 sq-kms, is held under three land tenure systems (Butaleja District Council, 2007). These include Leasehold, 1 per cent; Freehold, 9 per cent; and Customary, 90 per cent (Butaleja District Planning Unit, 2007).
1.2.5 Wetlands

Population pressure on uplands for crop production has pushed the community to convert wetlands for paddy rice production. The pressure has grown as the demand for rice within the country, along with the price, has grown. The upland areas, in some places like Mazimasa sub-county, have been virtually abandoned and the population is expanding into the wetland by diverting river water flow to irrigate more land close to the wetland (NEMA/UNEP, 2008). Other issues include overgrazing, riverbank cultivation, hill slope cultivation, and quarrying and road works impacts. Many issues continue to arise as the population grows. There is an urgent need for concerted efforts to ensure the sustainable management of the natural resources and environment (NEMA/UNEP, 2008).

1.2.6 Cross-departmental environmental concerns

Development projects, their impact on environment and proposed mitigation measures; in line with sound environment management principles and integration of environment concerns in development endeavours is pertinent and should be addressed in the DEAP. All projects to be undertaken should be as environmentally positive and or as environmentally sensitive as possible. For instance soil conservation, tree planting and restoration of natural vegetation. However some programmes, projects and services that have the potential to impact negatively 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, staff houses, pit latrines and health units; and destruction of vegetation cover, solid waste disposal, soil erosion.

c) Water: Deep or shallow well construction, depletion of ground water when motorised pumping is used, stagnant water at drawing points and loss of access.

d) Education/health: Procurement of furniture 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: Facilities include: (i) 10 protected springs; (ii) 16 shallow wells; (iii) 288 tap stands; (iv) 258 deep boreholes; and (v) nil Gravity scheme flows. Safe water coverage stands at 47 per cent, below the national average 61.8 percent.

g) Natural resources: Tree nursery establishment, destruction of vegetation cover, solid waste disposal, soil erosion, introduction of dangerous chemicals to the environment.

1.2.7 Environmental health issues

Over 80 per cent of the top ten causes of ill-health among the population of Butaleja district are preventable by providing a good living environment including adequate supply of clean water, clean, dust-free, insect free sleeping areas/shelter, shade, sanitation and a balanced diet. They are: malaria (accounts for 46 per cent of OPD attendance and 23 per cent of admissions); acute respiratory infections (ARI); diarrhoeal diseases; intestinal worms; malnutrition; trauma; pregnancy related diseases; eye conditions; and skin diseases

Some environmental health problems have been exacerbated by the mushrooming of trading centres and towns, which were setup without physical planning or establishment of solid waste disposal systems. Markets lack latrines and roadside eating houses operate under unhygienic conditions. Also, some homes lack pit latrines, and school sanitation is below the expected standard. Meanwhile, no vigorous supervision of good health status as yet exists in the district (Butaleja DDP, 2008).
1.3 Poverty and Livelihood Analysis

The population census report also reveals that, 40 per cent of the Butaleja population is living below the poverty line (UBOS, 2002). The poor majority in Butaleja mainly rely on inadequate income generating activities. In general the level of poverty is highest 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 (Butaleja District Planning Unit, 2007). 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 through indicators such as insecurity, low quality of public services, the scarcity of jobs and the lack of physical, technical and health information throughout society.

About 77 per cent of the district population derive their livelihoods from crop production; 11.3 per cent support their families through formal and non-formal employment; and 6.8 per cent rely on trading. Other livelihoods in the district include property income (0.5 per cent), donations from relatives (3.5 per cent), self employed cottage industry (0.4 per cent) and commercial farmers (0.35 per cent) (Butaleja District Planning Unit, 2007). There is an increasing trend towards non-farming activities due to uncertainty and seasonality of agricultural production and incomes. In addition, there are other demands on households such as paying for tertiary education and health services.

Very few women work in the formal sector with women forming 19.2 per cent of the total labour force. Women are likely to be poorer than men because they do not have 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.

1.4 Challenges and strategies of managing the environment and natural resources

The Box below consists of the challenges and strategies identified by the District Technical Team (DTT) for developing the District Environment Policy consisting of all the heads of departments in the district (planning unit, environment and natural resources, community development, production, health, works and transport and education) and the District Executive Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• encroachment and degradation of wetlands by rice growers;</td>
<td>• promote sustainable exploitation of natural resources for development;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• reduction in tree coverage due to rampant tree cutting attributed to the</td>
<td>• mainstream environment management in all service delivery sectors;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Act 1998 Cap 227 which vests ownership of trees to land owners;</td>
<td>• carry out environment awareness and education campaigns;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• newly created district lacks funds and logistical support;</td>
<td>• protect wetlands, forest reserves and biodiversity associated with them;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• low levels of human capacity in the environmental sector (forest,</td>
<td>• carry out physical planning of urban centres;</td>
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<tr>
<td>fisheries, natural vegetation and wild animal expertise)</td>
<td>• support initiatives to register land owned;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• confusion by public due to structural changes in the Forest sector;</td>
<td>• identify and rehabilitate forest reserves;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• high prices and unavailability of seeds and seedlings of economically</td>
<td>• recruit and build the capacity of staff in the environment and natural</td>
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<tr>
<td>viable timber tree species such as pines;</td>
<td>resources sector;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• tree growing not priority by farmers due to long maturity and</td>
<td>• enforce laws and regulations on the use of forestry, woodland resources;</td>
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<tr>
<td>management costs;</td>
<td>• register and licence pit sawyers; and expand district tree nurseries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• severe soil degradation due to poor farming methods;</td>
<td>• over-exploitation or depletion of natural resources.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• poor accessibility to safe water among many households;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• lack of land use plans;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• conflicting information on natural resources use; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• over-exploitation or depletion of natural resources.</td>
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Source: adapted from Butaleja DDP (2007)
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

To have sustainable environment and natural resources management which is the foundation of the livelihoods of the community, which 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 the district’s economy should be based on sustainable natural resource use and sound management.

(iii) Security of land and resource tenure and user rights 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 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.
Effective involvement of women and youth in natural resource policy formulation, planning, decision making, management and program implementation is essential and should be encouraged.

Increased awareness and understanding of environmental and natural resource issues by Government and the public should be promoted.

Social equity, particularly when allocating resource use should be promoted.

Sub-regional, regional and global environmental interdependence should be recognized.

Policy will draw guidance from the National Land Policy of 2008.

3.0 POLICY AREAS, STATEMENTS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

3.1 Land resource tenure and land use

**Policy Statement:** To ensure improved land resource access, tenure, equity in stewardship and appropriate land use practices in Butaleja district.

**Objective**

To promote improved land stewardship for all land users including a better definition of, and strengthening, land and resource access, tenure and usufruct rights.

**Strategies**

(i) Support the operationalisation of the Land Act 1998 Cap 227 in the district, through the set structures of the 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 and enforce prohibition of environmentally unacceptable land use practices.

(iv) Subject public land leases to the environmental impact assessment process.

3.2 Environmental education, human resource development and 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.

**Objectives**

1. To allocate adequate resources (physical, financial and human) to environment information development, and awareness creation;

2. To ensure an appropriate institutional structure for environmental information generation and provision through the local environment committees, political leaders, civil society and communities.

3. To develop capacity of environment and natural resources stakeholders in the District including local environment committees, land committees, town councils and other statutory bodies.

4. To promote both public and private participation in environment related issues.
Strategies

(i) Regular development of District State of Environment Reports and capacity building for staff in the district natural resources department.

(ii) Provide for sufficient budget for environmental information generation and awareness within the district natural resources department budget.

(iii) Encourage the inclusion of environmental information and awareness in projects that are likely to impact on the environment and natural resources in the district.

(iv) Capacity building for all technical staff in the district, community and community leaders in sustainable natural resource and environment management.

3.3 Conservation of biological diversity

**Policy statement:** To ensure that the biodiversity of the district is conserved and properly accounted for.

**Objectives**

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 encourage use of alternative lands to wetlands and adoption of production practices, which do not threaten the loss of local biodiversity.
4. To protect the rights of local communities over local genetic resources.
5. To encourage sustainable investment initiatives into the biodiversity of the District.

**Strategies**

(i) Develop either a biodiversity management plan for the district to include biodiversity in protected areas and in unprotected areas.

(ii) Develop an investment plan based on the biodiversity resources of the district.

(iii) Promote active participation of the local communities together with investors in the biodiversity based opportunities available such as tourism and ecotourism.

(iv) 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.

(v) Regular participation of the local communities in planning of the district's natural resources management strategies.

(vi) Develop an ecotourism site especially along Mpologoma River one of the biodiversity rich spots as a means of promoting investment into nature conservation.

3.5 Water resource conservation

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

**Objectives**

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.

3. To ensure appropriate management of the watersheds, which contribute water to the existing water resources in the district.
Strategies

(i) Support communally developed water resource use plans and their implementation throughout the district.
(ii) Encourage increased investment in water for domestic use and production including increasing the number of boreholes and regular repair on infrastructure.
(iii) 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.
(iv) Develop watershed or catchment area-wide plans that include upstream and down stream communities, ecosystems and ecosystems services to ensure sustained availability of the watershed 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.

Objectives

1. To manage wetlands in such a way that they continue to provide the basic environmental functions and services to the community which include provisions of water, food, crafts, air purification and biodiversity modification among others.
2. To immediately halt the degradation of all the wetlands in the district.

Strategies

(i) All wetlands must have management plans drawn by the district environment and natural resource’s department with together with the wetland users.
(ii) An inventory of wetlands should be carried out in every year to determine the quantity and value of their biodiversity.
(iii) Develop bye-laws in the most affected sub-counties to support protection of the wetlands.
(iv) Strengthen the enforcement of the Prohibition of Burning of Bush Act Cap 33.

3.7 Financing environment management

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

Objectives

1. To sustainably increase the local revenue generated from the district’s 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

(i) Develop a long-term business plan for the environment and natural resources sector of the district;
(ii) To increase the level of information available on the business opportunities in the district’s environment and natural resources sector among investors, through shows and various other 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 comply with national EIA regulations.

**Objectives**

1. To increase the level of compliance with conducting Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Audits.
2. To increase co-ordination 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 district’s environment and natural resources both from a local perspective and a national perspective.

**Strategies**

(i) Increase support to the responsible environment and natural resources department to enforce regulations on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Environmental Audits.

(ii) Increase the participation of the District Environment Officer in the monitoring and evaluation of programmes’ and projects’ compliance to the Environment Impact Statement.

(iii) Undertake regular assessments of the district’s environment and natural resources both from a local perspective and a national perspective.

3.9 Control of pollution; management of domestic, industrial and hazardous waste

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

**Objectives**

1. To provide an orderly and environmentally friendly waste management system in accordance with the National Waste Management Regulations SI 153-2.
2. To safeguard the health of people through ensuring proper disposal of waste products.

**Strategies**

(i) All wastes should be sorted according to category of degradation before discharge.

(ii) Polythene materials should not be burnt locally but rather through a special incinerator.

(iii) Support the enforcement of organic recycling for bio-degradable waste.

(iv) Burning should only be used in restricted and under controlled conditions and under regulation.

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 provides support to the most vulnerable communities.

**Objective**

To enhance the ability of communities living in the district to adapt to changes in the climate.
District Environment Policy - Butaleja

Strategies

(i) Increase information, education and training for communities on the livelihoods and land use opportunities available within the climate systems of the area.

(ii) 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.

Objectives

1. To reduce the incidence of diseases related to poor hygiene and sanitation including eye diseases, skin diseases, intestinal worms and diarrhoea disease, and reduce the incidence of malaria in the district.

2. To improve co-ordination in the movements of people in, out and within the district so as to track their needs and potential to transmit diseases.

3. To ensure that settlements within the district follow the district and National Land Use Policies and Plans.

4. Integrate appropriate cultural issues for the protection of the environment and find solutions to those cultural norms which cause damage to the environment and biodiversity.

5. Identify research problems that are related to population.

Strategies

(i) 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.

(ii) Educate the communities in the district on practices for the prevention of malaria, and other environmental diseases.

(iii) Formulate a bye-law on the movement of people and livestock in, out and within the district in line with national regulations and international practice.


3.12 Gender integration

Policy Statement: Reduce the gap between the levels of income among men and women, increase women’s participation in development activities, and increase women’s access to resources.

Objective

To enhance women’s and other vulnerable people’s participation in decision-making over access to and use of, natural resources.

Strategies

(i) Support enforcement of the national laws; the Land Act Cap 227, and, when passed into law, the Domestic Relations Bill.

(ii) Mainstream gender into the District’s Development Plans, policies and budgetary framework.

(iii) Increase sensitization on gender roles and responsibilities, and implement national guidance on affirmative action and promotion of girl child education.
3.13 Community livelihoods of crop, fisheries and livestock production

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

**Objectives**

1. To increase the capacity of the district fisheries office and local fisheries management committees to sustainably manage the district’s fisheries resources.
2. To increase investment into sustainable fisheries production including fish farming.
3. To promote sustainable crop production practices through the district.
4. To promote sustainable livestock production practices throughout the district.

**Strategies**

(i) Adopt practices of sustainable land management within the district including among others agro-forestry, good agronomic practices, and organic farming practices;
(ii) To encourage increased integration of sustainable behaviour and minimise waste from the farm to market among crop farmers, pastoralists and traders.
(iii) Training farmers on diversification of income sources both within and outside the farm;
(iv) Support sustainable use of water for irrigation in agriculture.
(v) Conduct regular awareness-raising on sustainable fisheries management and fish farming, sustainable use of wetlands and diversification.
(vi) Carryout regular monitoring of the biodiversity of the capture fisheries the district and mainstream biodiversity conservation into the district's fisheries management plan.

3.14 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, woodland, bush and other woody vegetation cover within the district through growth of private regeneration and plantations.
2. To support re-generation of vegetation so as to protect soils, water resources, and provide habitat and products such as forage, fibres and eco-tourism opportunities.
3. To encourage the growth of trees with the farming systems through approaches such as agro-forestry, green manure and forage tree production;
4. To develop a curriculum on tree, woodland and woody vegetation regeneration, planting, and management for primary and secondary schools and tertiary educational institutions in the District.

**Strategies**

(i) Promote wood saving practices and technologies, including recycling, reuse and multiple uses, at all levels of forestry resource utilization.
(ii) Develop a bye-law on forestry production and management within the district to include planting trees in public lands, road reserves and institutions.
(iii) Undertake activities to rejuvenate forest tree species along threatened wetlands.
(iv) Support training on forestry resource use and management in schools and among farmers.
(v) Support the setting up of a fund to support forestry activities in the community and on individual farms.
(vi) Encourage the gazetting of more land as local forest reserves for tree planting.
(vii) Encourage the establishment of agro-forestry demonstration sites that enable farmers to learn different agro-forestry practices.

3.14 Energy

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

**Objective**

To increase the number of environmentally sustainable alternative sources of energy available in the district, and to reduce dependence on wood and charcoal for fuel.

**Strategies**

(i) 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, livestock and other waste for the production of biogas;
(ii) Support initiatives within the district that promote sustainable energy sources including solar energy and biogas.

4.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 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**

To develop an ordinance and bye-laws that appropriately fit the institutional arrangements at the district level with the need to have a comprehensive natural resources and environment management strategy.

**Strategies**

(i) Enact district ordinance and bye-laws to complement national legislation on environment and involve the local people in formulation of the bye-laws.
(ii) Improve environmental law and bye-law enforcement.
(iii) Involve the local population in enforcement of national environmental laws and district bye-laws on the environment.
4.2 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. Although, there is a platform for the different heads of department to meet and discuss issues there is a need to formalize this relationship so that it does not seem like an informal arrangement. 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.

**Objectives**

1. Regularize the institutional relationship between the environment and natural resources department and the other departments at the district.
2. Increase the profile of mainstreaming environment into the District Development Plans and Budget Framework Paper.

**Strategies**

(i) Mainstream the environment formally into the district development planning and budgeting processes.
(ii) Define the powers of the environment officers and other natural resources officers in any subsequent bye-laws developed.
(iii) Carry out trainings and awareness-raising on mainstreaming environment into the district, and sub-district planning and budgeting processes.

4.3 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 under privileged majority are incorporated in the national development process.

**Objective**

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

**Strategies**

(i) Create civil society organisations working groups on environment and natural resources within the district.
(ii) Increase the occasions for interface between district planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring and evaluation teams with the civil society organisations in the district.
(iii) Lobby for additional support to and through civil society organisations that have an active role in environment management.
(iv) Participate in the monitoring and evaluation and in planning to improve on the service delivery of civil society organisations working within the district.
4.4 Cross-district and cross (international) boundary resources management

Due to the complexity and trans-boundary 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**
To optimally and equitably draw benefits from shared, with other district, natural resources.

**Strategy**
Butaleja district shall closely cooperate with neighbouring districts especially in the management of cross-boundary natural resources or environmental issues.

4.5 Monitoring and evaluation

Development is perceived as the best social progress in human activities leading to a better life for the majority. However it can compromise 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.

**Objectives**

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 are appropriately used; and

3. Ensure that all stakeholders who are required to undertake tasks related to environment and natural resources management not only undertake the tasks but that they are facilitated to do so.

**Strategies**

(i) Carry out 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 office/sector;

(ii) Designate a special fund to support the environment office/natural resources to carry out environmental monitoring and compliance assistance.

(iii) Establish a stakeholder committee to oversee activities on environment and natural resources consisting of district and sub-county councils, communities, and non-governmental organisations.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


