



TOURISM FOR A BETTER WORLD

Environmental Policy for Community-Based Tourism Organizations

For [Name of CBTO]

Date of Implementation:

Responsible Authority: CBTO Management Committee / Environmental Coordinator

1. Our Commitment to the Environment

[Name of CBTO] recognizes that the health and sustainability of our natural and cultural environment is the foundation of our tourism business. We are committed to minimizing our environmental footprint, promoting conservation, and actively contributing to the ecological well-being of our community, [Name of Village/Region].

We commit to the following principles:

- Compliance with all relevant Ugandan environmental laws and regulations.
- Continuous improvement in our environmental performance.
- Educating staff, guests, and community members on sustainable tourism practices.
- Protecting local biodiversity and sensitive habitats.

2. Waste Management and Pollution Control

We aim for a "Leave No Trace" philosophy in all operations and tours.

2.1 Solid Waste (Trash)

- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (The 3 R's):** We prioritize purchasing items with minimal packaging. Single-use plastics (e.g., water bottles, plastic bags) are strictly avoided and replaced with reusable alternatives (e.g., filtered water stations, reusable containers).
- **Sorting:** All waste generated by the CBTO and guests must be sorted into clearly labeled bins (e.g., Biodegradable/Compost, Recyclables, Non-Recyclable/Landfill).

- **Disposal:** Biodegradable waste is composted for community gardens. Recyclable materials (e.g., glass, plastic, metal) are collected and transported to the nearest authorized recycling center in [Nearest Town]. Non-recyclable waste is securely stored and disposed of only in approved, managed community disposal sites.

2.2 Wastewater

- Greywater from sinks and showers will be channeled through simple, natural filtration systems (e.g., soak pits or reed beds) to prevent direct discharge into local waterways.
- All latrines and septic systems must be regularly inspected and maintained to prevent groundwater contamination. Chemical disinfectants are avoided.

3. Resource Conservation

3.1 Energy Efficiency

- **Lighting:** We prioritize natural light sources. All lighting fixtures must use low-energy consumption bulbs (LED or CFL).
- **Power:** We prioritize the use of renewable energy sources (e.g., solar power) for lighting and water heating. Generator use is minimized and restricted to essential operations during specified hours.
- **Appliances:** When purchasing new appliances, we prioritize those with the highest energy efficiency ratings.

3.2 Water Conservation

- **Monitoring:** Water usage is monitored monthly to identify leaks or excessive consumption.
- **Fixtures:** Low-flow showerheads and taps are installed where possible.
- **Guest Awareness:** Guests are encouraged via signage in accommodation to conserve water, reuse towels, and report leaks immediately.
- **Rainwater Harvesting:** We utilize rainwater harvesting systems for non-potable uses like flushing toilets and watering gardens.

4. Biodiversity and Wildlife Protection

Our tours and activities must not negatively impact local flora and fauna.

- **Habitat Protection:** Tours are restricted to designated trails and routes to prevent damage to sensitive vegetation, especially along riverbanks and in forest areas.
- **Indigenous Species:** We commit to planting only indigenous, locally appropriate tree and plant species for landscaping and reforestation efforts.

- **Wildlife Interaction:** We prohibit any unauthorized feeding, touching, or harassing of wildlife. Guides must ensure guests maintain a respectful distance from all animals, following established UWA or local authority guidelines.
- **Sourcing:** We prohibit the use, sale, or display of items derived from endangered or protected species (e.g., animal skins, certain hardwoods).

5. Transportation and Local Sourcing

- **Transport:** We prioritize walking, cycling, and other low-impact transportation methods for short distances. When vehicles are required, we ensure they are well-maintained to minimize emissions and noise pollution.
- **Local Procurement:** We commit to sourcing at least **80%** of our food, supplies, and souvenirs from local community members or neighboring regions to reduce transportation emissions and support the local economy.

6. Staff Training and Guest Education

- **Staff Training:** The Environmental Coordinator is responsible for ensuring all staff (guides, cooks, cleaners) receive annual training on this policy, including proper waste sorting, water management techniques, and conservation ethics.
- **Guest Briefing:** Guides must provide a mandatory pre-tour briefing covering the CBTO's core environmental expectations, focusing on waste disposal, water use, and wildlife interaction guidelines.

7. Review and Reporting

This policy will be formally reviewed by the CBTO Management Committee annually, or immediately following any significant environmental incident, to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

Signed:

Title:

Date:

