



Policy Title :	Environmental Policy
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Related Policies, Guidelines & Regulations:	
BIUST Occupational Health & Safety Policy	
BIUST Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan	
BIUST SHE Roles & Responsibilities	
Final EIA Report	
Campus Master Plan	

1. Background

Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUST) is a Government of Botswana supported institution established through the BIUST Act (Cap 57:05) as a research-intensive university that specialises in engineering-science and technology at both undergraduate and graduate (Masters and Doctoral) levels. It is located on an expansive and ecologically diverse 2500 hectare site of gently sloping land in Tswapong hills south east of Palapye. The institution is tasked with driving change necessary to bring about fundamental transformation of the economy of Botswana.

Prior to the construction of BIUST an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) survey was carried out in order to undertake a comprehensive environmental and archaeological impact assessment of the proposed project and make recommendations for mitigation measures to be undertaken. This survey identified the environmental aspects and impact of the construction and operation of BIUST on the previously arable farming designated land use. The EIA prescribed an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) which stipulated measures to be put in place to minimise the significant environmental aspects of the developmental and operational phase of BIUST.

The prescribed measures in the EMP have been partially implemented hence the need for an environmental policy that will give the University direction in not only meeting the requirements of the EMP but also in complying to all statutory environmental regulations. This shall be achieved through the implementation of an Environmental Management system (EMS). An EMS is defined as part of the organisation's management system used to develop and implement its environmental policy and manage its environmental aspects.

This shall be achieved by aligning the demands of business (being a world-class centre of excellence for science, engineering and technology education and research seamlessly integrating research and education to produce highly skilled professionals; a world class research hub for Botswana, the region, Africa and global community) against the need to protect, preserve and conserve our flora and fauna.

Below is a list (not exhaustive) of applicable legislation in the context of environmental management;

1. Chapter24-03 Protection Act
2. Chapter32-09 Town and Country Planning Act
3. Chapter34-01 Water Act
4. Chapter34-03 Waterworks Act
5. Chapter38-01 Wildlife Conservation and National Parks Act
6. Chapter38-02 Herbage Preservation (Prevention of Fires) Act
7. Chapter38-03 Forest Act
8. Chapter44-01 Factories Act
9. Chapter44-02 Mines, Quarries, Works and Machinery Act
10. Chapter63-01 Public Health Act
11. Chapter65-04 Control of Smoking Act
12. Chapter65-02 Building Control Act
13. Chapter65-03 Atmospheric Pollution (Prevention) Act

14. Chapter65-06 Waste Management Act

15. Chapter65-07 Environmental Impact Assessment Act 2011

2. Purpose

This Policy defines the principles that guide BIUST' commitment to protect the environment, comply with all statutory regulations and continually improve its environmental management performance. The policy supports the implementation of an Environmental management system which will;

- Ensure compliance to relevant environmental management legislation.
- Lead the adaptation and compliance to ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System Standards,
- Govern all environmental management processes and procedures to ensure the preservation, protection and conservation of the University's natural resources (mineral and energy resources, soil resources, water resources and biological resources).

3. Definition of Term

BIUST:-Botswana International University of Science Technology

EIA: - Environmental Impact Assessment

EMP: - Environmental Management Plan

Environmental Aspect: - An element of an organisation's activities or products or services that can interact with the environment.

Environmental Impact: - Any Change to the environment whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's aspect.

4. Scope

This Environmental Policy applies to; all employees, students, contractors, Visitors and suppliers under the management and control of BIUST. All employees, students and contractors, visitors and suppliers engaged in any activity for and within BIUST must align their Environmental Management Plans to this policy.

5. Policy Principles

BIUST Management actively promotes a culture of environmental responsibility and is committed to sustainable development. This commitment is demonstrated by the following environmental management principles:

- 5.1 All University operations shall identify and maintain compliance to all statutory environmental laws and regulations.
- 5.2 BIUST management will provide sufficient financial and physical resources to ensure the effective implementation of an Environmental Management System that will establish and evaluate achievable environmental performance goals and targets.
- 5.3 BIUST management shall ensure the official appointment of sufficient qualified and competent personnel (including Environmental and Energy management representatives) to ensure responsibilities, authority and accountability for implementing the environmental management system.
- 5.4 Directorate Directors, line managers and Chief Technicians will develop, implement and maintain Environmental Management plans, in their particular areas which shall be achieved through Environmental and Energy management representatives in line with the BIUST environmental management system.
- 5.5 All BIUST physical developments will conserve natural resources by adopting all environmental management recommendations prescribed by the campus master plan.
- 5.6 BIUST Management proactively promotes practices that protect plants and animals in BIUST and Surrounding Communities. Management will ensure survival of all wildlife found on campus.
- 5.7 BIUST Management actively promotes conservation through the creation of the BIUST BIORESERVE. The Bioreserve will provide a sanctuary to wildlife that has been displaced by encroachment, poaching or cattle ranching. The Bioreserve will also promote wildlife conservation research, public education and community based environmental management projects
- 5.8 All BIUST operations shall adapt the cradle to the grave approach to waste management. BIUST commits to prevent pollution by developing and implementing a waste management plan that will ensure the university, reduces its waste generation and resource consumption by adopting the three R's approach to reduce, reuse and recycle waste.

5.9 All BIUST operations shall adopt the responsible use of energy throughout by conserving energy, improving energy efficiency, and giving preference to renewable over non-renewable energy where reasonably practicable.

5.10 BIUST shall promote a culture that encourages all employees, students, contractors and suppliers to actively participate in environmental management by controlling environmental aspects and ensuring that environmental impacts are promptly reported, investigated and control measures are implemented to eliminate or minimise the environmental impact.

5.11 BIUST shall Pro-actively engage with Government, communities and other stakeholders on matters related to the development of legislation, environmental protection and understanding and sharing appropriate pollution prevention technology, knowledge and methods.

5.12 In order to ensure continuous improvement in environmental performance BIUST will establish, maintain and monitor progress towards; measurable objectives and targets aimed at the preventing pollution, protecting and conserving the environment.

5.13 This policy will be made available to all employees, students, contractors, suppliers and the general public upon request.

6. Roles & Responsibilities

6.1 **The Vice-Chancellor** has responsibility for, and is committed to, the effective implementation of the University Environmental Management Policy.

6.2 **Executive Management** will support Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, Managers and Supervisors to fulfil their environmental management responsibilities and accountabilities within their area of responsibility.

6.3 **University Council** has the responsibility to oversee the monitoring of the University's Environmental Management performance against the university's strategic objectives and targets.

6.4 **All employees, students, contractors, clients and visitors** under the management and control of BIUST have a responsibility to take reasonable care for the environment and comply with any reasonable instruction, policy or procedures of the University in relation to environmental management.

6.5 **The Safety Health and Environment office** is available to provide advice regarding specific environmental management issues, update the University on legislative changes and assist with

the development, implementation and monitoring of this Policy and the Environmental management system.

6.6 Further description of environmental management responsibilities are outlined in the **BIUST SHE Roles and Responsibilities**.

7. Policy Goal

To show BIUST management commitment to complying with all environmental management legislation by reducing waste, preventing pollution, and being proactive in developing green initiatives that conserve natural resources. The policy will also ensure that there are well-documented procedures to identify, manage and minimise environmental impacts & aspects.

8. Policy Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- 8.1 Manage the environmental impacts of our operations by fulfilling compliance obligations, addressing risks and opportunities and demonstrating continuous improvement through adopting and implementing ISO 14001:2015- Environmental Management System Standard.
- 8.2 50% Reduction of waste taken to the landfill by introducing organic waste composting, wastewater recycling and single stream waste recycling as proposed by the campus master plan.
- 8.3 Reduce energy consumption by 30 % through the adaptation and implementation of ISO 50001:2011- Energy Management standard as per the recommendations of the campus master plan.
- 8.4 Develop guidelines and procedures for proper hazardous material storage and disposal.
- 8.5 Provide a framework for the development of The BIUST Bioreserve to promote not only natural resource conservation but provide for potential Environmental research partnerships.

9. Policy Applicability

This policy together with its guidelines and procedures applies to all BIUST employees, students, visitors and contractors.

10. Policy Implementation Framework

The Policy will be implemented under the authority of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration with the support of the Director of Physical Planning and Campus Facilities. This Policy will be reviewed every three years.

The University's Environmental Management Committee is responsible for approving all university Environmental Management guidelines and manuals.

The Director for Physical Planning and Campus Facilities is responsible for the implementation of the Environmental Management system through the Safety Health and Environment Office.