

STATE OF THE DISTRICT REPORT JULY 2025 TO MARCH 2026

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

1.0 Brief background

Mandate: The department of Natural resources is mandated to guide the utilization and ensure sustainable harnessing of the districts natural resource base. It also guides development planning and control while ascertaining security of tenure in land management.

The department comprises the sectors of Forestry (2 staff at district level), Environment and Wetlands (3 staff), Physical planning (2 staff), Lands and surveys (4 Staffs) all under the head of department who is the District Natural Resources Officer. In the field we have 11 physical planners one in each town council, 3 Assistant Environment Officers in Katabi-Kajjansi, Kasangati- Wakiso and Kyengera –Kasanje, Bussi. We have 3 forestry staff in the field who also support the Municipal councils. The Municipalities each have Physical planners and Environment staffs.

The Department has always relied on only the MWE sector grant which has locally raised revenue; nonetheless the Greater Kampala Metropolitan area –Urban Development Programme(GKMA-UDP) 2023-2024 has since prioritized the department with emphasis to Urban resilience, planning and Environment resilience and management. All infrastructure developments have to be guided to comply with environmental guidelines. In the same vein the Environment and Natural Resources grant has been raised from 62,375,015 in FY2024/25, to 160,994,400m in FY 2025/2026. This is due to management planning and environment restoration efforts that the district is anticipated to indulge.

There is a critical challenge in the physical/urban planning section in that whereas a lot of developments and land subdivisions is visibly going on in the District, the financial yield from this area is still very meager. There is a clear mismatch regarding a) the development permissions granted and the Building Committee actions. b) the land subdivisions routed from Physical Planning to those forwarded by the Surveys Unit as well as the outputs by the Ministry Zonal Office which is vibrantly located at the District headquarters. Efforts to improve the working relation ship are still wanting given the brokering teams thriving at the land offices.

Overview of the status:

Wakiso's environmental state is quite concerning with high climate change severity scores and air quality issues. The climate change severity score of 76, indicating very high severity, indicating deteriorating conditions with increasing negative impacts on weather patterns and environmental conditions. Temperature has risen by 0.3°C, while annual rainfall has decreased by 29.03% over the past 15 years. Additionally, PM2.5 levels have surged, contributing to unhealthy air quality.

Air quality is also a concern, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 40, considered "Good" currently, but fluctuating throughout the day. However, other areas in Wakiso, like Kambe, have an AQI of 25.15, classified as "Moderate". Air quality in Wakiso is moderate to unhealthy, with PM2.5 levels exceeding WHO guidelines. The main pollutants are particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), with concentrations 4.6 times higher than recommended limits.

The district has also lost 70% of its wetlands since 2015, mainly due to human settlements and urbanization. This has significantly impacted weather patterns in the Greater Kampala area and led to water contamination, affecting Lake Victoria. The waters are green in colour over several locations in Nakiwogo. Referred to as the Algea bloom due to high levels of contaminants in the

water. This is the main entrance to the growing tourism development in the Bussi Island and Kalangala while Tourism is a driver for the NDPIV. The enabler Nakiwogo docking area and the water quality is in dire need for redress.

Currently, the Department is implementing the GKMA-UDP through which we have prepared

- a) the Wakiso District State of Environment Report 2025,
- b) the Wakiso Climate Change and Vulnerability Assessment Report 2025
- c) the Wakiso District Waste management strategy and Action plan 2025-2030 and
- d) and Wakiso Environment and Natural Resources Action plan 2025-2030.

These are in addition to the Wakiso District Physical Development plan 2018 -2040

These need to be disseminated and utilized as a basis for planning and implementation by all sectors and programmes as guided by National Development Plan NDP IV amongst other instruments.

The District Environment and Natural Resources Committee (DENRC) is fully constituted and operational chaired by Hon Betty Ethel Naluyima 6 LENRCs have been constituted and oriented with action plans to include climate change awareness. Under Forestry we have draft designs for the Agro-Ecological Demonstration Park with a tree Nursery for Indigenous trees near court. The district record is; 2 Local Forest Reserves (i) Gunda Local Forest Reserve (57ha) located at Kabaale village in Katabi T/C highly under threat and Nambuga Local Forest Reserve(73ha) located at Kasanje T/C. The tree nursery has been revamped with over 50,000 indigenous tree seedlings. The security from vermin is however an issue due to growing settlements affecting the habitat of monkeys.

As a land banking value addition activity, 10 acres of land is secured with tree planting and boundary demarcated in Namayumba. This FY25/26 we shall have the architectural detailed designs and BoQs for the ecopark developed and presented for approval.

Under the Environment Sector, the District Environment and Natural Resources committee (DENRC) has functioned with monitoring of stone quarry crushing companies. The Lot 1 and Lot 2 contractors China Railways and CICCOC have been monitored to ensure adherence to the Environmental Health and Social safeguards. The sector hopes to develop by laws/ ordinances for protection of green belts and tree corridors in the district as well as identify and map them along 5km length along Bukasa –Kakiri Road. There is to be a rapid assessment of 4 key air pollution areas for mitigation monitoring. There sector is to conduct a biodiversity richness assessment study of 3 wetland sections to inform the sustainable use and future demarcation.

The ENR action plan and CCVA are to be disseminated to the LLGs and flood prone areas mapped for preliminary control measures. The solid waste management strategy and action plan dissemination was held with LLGs staff. They campaign and two waste bin pilot study will go further to inform management of the challenges and implementation systems.

The development projects undergo social and climate change/ disaster screening district wide. Additionally, there shall be an annual climate change and disaster risk reduction expenditure analysis for the district. Radio talk shows by both the DENRC and technical staff to be attended on top of community sensitizations on waste, hilly areas, climate change and Environmental health and safety.

6 Local Environment and Natural Resources Committees constituted and oriented to support the functions at LLG level in addition to the political and technical monitoring of all projects.

The District hosts 2 Ramsar sites namely Mabamba and Lutembe Bay Ramsar Site designated in 2006, with a total area of about 1,769 hectares, approx. 45 kilometers threatened by settlement and floriculture. Mabamba Ramsar was designated in 2016 No. 1632 with an area of 2424 ha. With support from the GKMA-UDP a community wetland management plan was developed. We also got a letter of no- objection from Kampala Archdiocese for the Mabamba Wetland Ecotourism Association, a CBO to utilize some land for Ecotourism services. This is towards implementation of the Management plan. UNDP under the BioFin II project is to support the community group with some establishments and capacity needs.

GGGI supported the feasibility study of Lubigi Wetland into a proposed 400 acre Eco park. The Nambigirwa Community wetland management plan has also been discussed with communities. The report is yet to be finalized with a culmination of the World Wetlands Day commemoration in Katabi TC in March 2026.

The Physical Planning Sector since the District has an Approved Physical Development Plan 2018-2040(PDP) has embarked on preparation of detailed Physical Development Plans along Mityana Corridor (Bulenga, Bulaga and Buloba Towns) in FY2024/2025. The Town councils of Kyengera, Kajjansi, Kasangati, Wakiso and Katabi are yet to commit funds to conclude and approve their PDPs. The greater Masulita PDP is similarly pending conclusion and approval by the District. Road naming has been done in Wakiso Town council and this FY to be in Kyengera TC. DPPC meetings to receive and guide developments are ongoing. 3 detailed physical schemes along Sentema kakiri road and Kawuku market area are under procurement for FY25/26. A policy on road naming is to be developed and approved for use.

The District and Urban Physical planning committees are in place but not optimally operational. The health department and Works development projects were presented for scrutiny by the DPPC. The country was declared a planning area but the function is still not fully appreciated in the fast urbanizing Wakiso District. **ALL URBAN COUNCILS NEED TO STEP UP.**

The DISTRICT Land Board has been functional resolving conflicts and verifying applicants before approval as well as attending to court cases. The compensation rates for FY24/25 were presented for approval. The survey sub sector has supported the PAPs identification along the district Infrastructure developments. The survey requests have greatly dwindled in Kyadondo while Busiro files tend to be few in the surveys assessment.

The Natural resources sectors were administered effectively within available means. Small scale artisanal miners have been sensitized to be organized and register to be able to access government programmes. In the same vein LLG have been encouraged to plan and budget for this frequently neglected sub sector the activities were in Kakiri, Mende, Namayumba Sub counties and Masulita Sub county.

CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

1. The district lacks a legal team to follow up law enforcement actions to court. This derails the control and enforcement thrust.

2. There are several players in the field, Ministries, Police and Staff with little or no coordination.
3. The sectors require recurrent travels to the field yet the department has one vehicle with minimal budget provisions.
4. The department is hierarchically skewed, negating promotion provision for the ENR arm.
5. The Building control Committee and DPPC roles and standards need to be harmonized. e.g regarding the type c structures and use of a concept rather than drawings which affect the work flow.
6. The NLIS had to date omitted the Local government yet land management is a decentralized function under the Local Govt Act.
7. Lack of refresher opportunities for the technical staff amidst emerging issues and needs
8. The use of outdated cadastral maps lead to conflicting decisions and disregard for the LG teams.
9. The Building Substances Bill is limiting regulation of the stone and sand mining actions.

Strategies

1. There is need to have private sector on board to manage or attempt mitigation of adverse climate change impacts amidst sensitizations supported by Private sector and civil society bodies.
2. We seeking for sensitizing and cause mind set changes as to minimize and mitigate waste disposal challenges. This will lure investors while creating awareness for the recycle, reduce, re-use approaches.
3. The Wakiso Integrated Waste Management Ordinance be operationalized at all HLG and LLG.
4. Ensure a one stop centre for data to inform planning for the ATMs under the NDPIV
5. Seek for feasibility studies in the sector under the NPA project preparation facility to redress the waste management challenge
6. Continued sensitizing on forest based produce and fees to be levied is to be done to ensure clear perceptions and statutory provisions by all concerned stakeholders.
7. We shall continue with the central government and ministry plans to restore critical wetlands like Lubigi, tree planting and sensitization. This will be in cognizant of the presidential directive to safeguard all fragile ecosystems. To liaise more with Police and RDCs office to ensure reduced encroachment.
8. Climate change messages through sensitizations will be strategically done in schools as well as LLG who request the department given that they have the budgets. The REDD strategies will be complied with to reduce emissions, deforestation and degradation.
9. The titling of district properties will be supported under the CAOs office budget together with the lead departments. The lands staff will support technically as and when requested. Land inventory will be updated ALC and DLB capacity will be supported and verifications done before DLB decisions are made.

10. Inventory of public land holders shall be developed to ensure better planning for subsequent developments. The Lands office will work hand in hand with government projects to verify Project Affected Persons.

In the terms of conformity to the SDGs, the Sector is very important and aims to ensure compliance to the 5Ps (People, Planet, Peace, Prosperity and Partnership) for Sustainable Development. Attention should be given to;

- Ensuring that Environmental, climate change and disaster screening is undertaken for all investments. The Sector needs enforcement support to conduct meaningful compliance inspections and undertake remedy.
- Ensure follow up on the actions of the Land Board and harmonize the linkage between the District and Ministry Zonal Offices (Busiro and Kyadondo) creating visibility and relevancy of the District Staff under the Lands Section amidst the rampant land conflicts and fraud.
- There is a danger of loss of the Forest cover in the District, hence to give attention to the preservation of the forest reserves Land, promotion of tree seedlings access and tree planting in the District.
- Wetlands are diminishing, floods are increasing, there is need to intensify inspection and enforcement.
- There is need to have a fourth Assistant Environment Officer given the pressure on environment in the district.