ELEPHANT LIFELINE

NEMA, UWA, NFA SPEAK OUT

Aldon Walukamba, the public relations manager of the Ministry of Water and Environment, says Kasyoha-Kitomi Central Forest Reserve remains a critical ecological asset that must be safeguarded through strict adherence to Uganda's legal and environmental frameworks.

"There must also be firm commitments to restore any degraded areas to equal or greater ecological value. In addition, any damage caused must be fully compensated," Walukamba says.

He offered no comment on the restoration efforts of previous large-scale miners.

When asked about the restoration of Kyambura, Bashir Hangi, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) spokesperson, said mining of gold was done by a private company (name withheld), which completed a year ago and "the area was restored".

However, independent sources paint a different picture of an expansive wetland where restoration was uneven, hurried and far below the expectation, leaving a landscape only partially healed.

Dr Barirega Akankwasah, the National Environment Management Authority executive director, says: "I need to verify this and give more information about mining in Kasyoha-Kitomi."

Regarding Rubirizi district being sidelined, Akankwasah said: "Restoration should be monitored by UWA and National Forestry Authority [NFA]. They should know if it is not satisfactory. The lead agency is UWA and NFA, the local government is a stakeholder, and the conditions of approval should be shared."

Walukamba

Hangi

Akankwasah

says.

"Gold mining is cleared by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and NEMA," Agaba says.

There are plentiful deposits of gold in Kyambura and Kasyoha-Kitomi Forest Reserve which is sitting in four districts of Rubirizi, Buheweju, Ibanda and Kitagwenda. Rubirizi's Kyabakara sub-county is at the epicentre of small-scale mining, Agaba says.

Asked about the challenges that the gold mining poses, Agaba pointed to destruction of biodiversity (variety of species) contrary to the laws that govern protected areas under UWA and NFA.

"It is difficult to mine gold without destruction of biodiversity, habitats for wild animals, birds and insects because the activity involves excavation. There is also pollution of water because the miners have to wash the earth materials which end up in Lake George."

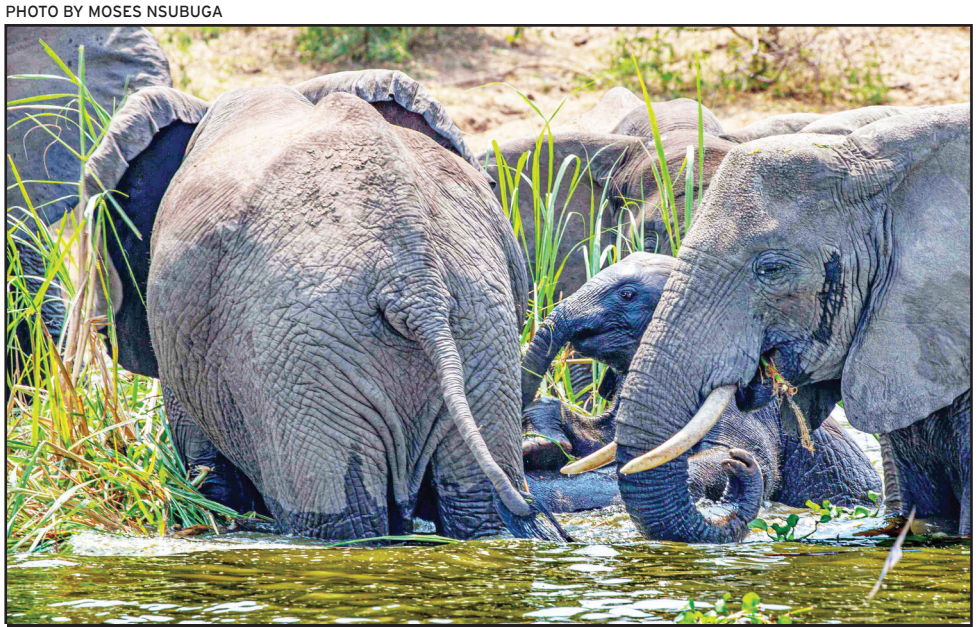
As the trees are pulled down, the communities get access to firewood. There is also widespread cut-down of trees for charcoal and timber in Kasyoha-Kitomi.

"What we have seen is that areas that were once difficult to access are now open to all. While some encroachers collect firewood, charcoal and timber, many others are engaged in sand mining. As expected, negative impacts of sand mining have hit home," Agaba says.

He added: "There has also been an increase in crop raiding, as animals — whose habitats have been disturbed — now find it easier to invade farms. There are growing complaints about wild birds and animals that have turned into vermin. Those entering the park and forest reserves are also more likely to engage in poaching because they now have access."

This story has been done with the support of Environmental Defenders

PHOTO BY MOSES NSUBUGA



Elephants at Queen Elizabeth National Park now face a growing risk, as the once-active migratory route between Kyambura and the park comes under strain of mining

Weak regulation

A worrisome pattern is beginning to take hold, as mining moves into reserves, says Onesmus Mugyenyi of the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment.

"The challenge is that much of the mining is taking place under exploration licences, which is not permitted under the law," Mugyenyi told *New Vision*.

He said before any extraction begins, investors are required to undertake an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

Mugyenyi said some investors exploit regulatory gaps, entering protected areas under the cover of exploration permits, only to expand their operations into full-scale mining.

At the same time, small-scale miners, often operating with limited technical and financial capacity, also find their way into these restricted zones. "We have small-scale miners who do not conduct ESIA studies," Mugyenyi says.

Despite these challenges, Mugyenyi says protected landscapes can still be sustainably utilised. With strict adherence to environmental safeguards, human activity and conservation can co-exist.

"As long as an ESIA is approved, permission can be granted. Where there are negative impacts, mitigation measures must be clearly outlined," Mugyenyi said.

He cited eco-tourism as an example of regulated activity that can take place in forest reserves following the ESIA approval, adding that such projects have been sanctioned by NEMA in several forest reserves and national parks.

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

LUWERO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSAL NOTICE NO. 1 2026/27

Luwero District Local Government in preparation for procurement activities of F.Y 2026/27 invites competent providers for Goods, works and Services in the categories listed below under Open Domestic Bidding (A) and Revenue sources' Collectors under B-C: -

A. GOODS & SUPPLIES
1. Procurement of land for solid waste management-Ndejje Tc
2. Procurement of Land for Construction of office block to Busiika Tc

B. SERVICES
1. Collection of Property Tax-Nyimbwa SC
2. Collection of property rates- Ndejje TC

C. RETAINER CONTRACTS
1. Private Garbage Collectors for Rural Areas-Luwero TC
- Kasana Area
- Luwero Area
2. Town cleaning, Garbage Collection, management and proper disposal-Luwero TC

D. REVENUE SOURCES
GRADE 1A
1. Kalasa sand checkpoint
2. Bamunanika Market
3. Kalasa Market
4. Slaughter fees - Makulubita
5. Wabusana Market
6. Kiziri Check Point- Forestry Produce
7. Kiziri Check Point- Sand, Stones & Bricks
8. Kibajjwe/Busisi Quarry
9. Cattle Loading Site Kamira
10. Nyimbwa Sand, Stones & Bricks
11. Kasana Check Point
12. Kikyusa Check Point
13. Bombo Check Point
14. Sand, stones & Bricks/ Kasiiso
15. Sand, stones & Bricks/ Butuntumula
16. Sand, stones & Bricks- Kamira tc
17. Kikyusa TC Slaughter fees
18. Fort night mkt - Kikyusa TC
19. Zirobwe SC Sand, stones & Bricks
20. Wabitungulu Mkt
21. Ndejje-Friday Market
22. Ndejje sand, stones & Bricks
23. Ndejje boda boda fees
24. Balikyejjusa Market
25. Coffee permits- Luwero SC
26. Kikyusa TC Boda boda fees
27. Sand –Kamira Tc
28. Traditional healers Permits
29. Parking Sticker(District)
30. Parking fees-Boda Boda stickers-Bamunanika SC
31. Boda Boda fees-Luwero SC\
32. Luwero sand, stones & Bricks-Luwero SC
33. Slaughter fees-Ndejje TC
34. Toninyira Mkt-Ndejje TC

35. Wobulenzi TC Sources
- Abattoir
- Central Market
- Lorries & Pickups,
- Public Convenience
- Night Parking
- Boda Boda Parking fees
- Friday Mkt
- Toninyira Mkt

36. Luwero TC Sources
- Central Market &Weekly Market
- Kasana mkt, Wekembe & Kalerwe mkts
- Abbattour/Slaughter fees
- Public Convenience
- Lorries & Pickups
- Gabbage Collection
- Hotels & Lodges

Boda boda annual fees collection
Luwero town cleaning (Sweepers)

37. Bombo TC Sources
- Fortnight mkts
- Abattoir fees
- Toninyira Market

38. Zirobwe TC Sources
- Abattoir fees
- Bukiimu Saturday Markat
- Zirobwe sand, stones & Bricks
- Boda boda parking fees
- Namawojja Sunday Market

39. Busiika TC Sources
- Slaughter house fees
- Vvumba Bi-weekly market
- Lorries&Pickups
- Kigongo fortnight mkt
- Gabbage collection fees

GRADE 1B
40. Sekamuli market
41. Kamira Market
42. Bukiimu Market
43. Ngogolo/Nalongo Open Market
44. Abattoir fees - Bamunanika
45. Namawojja weekly mkt – Zirobwe TC
46. Bamunanika Sand, stones & bricks

Grade II
47. Bulami & Tongo Mkt
48. Kasiiso/Lutuula Market
49. Lwogi Market
50. Wabiyinja Market
51. Matembe Market
52. Kayonza & Manywa Market
53. Kikyusa SC Boda Boda
54. Masaka Market
55. Bulu Bulu Market
56. Tokekulu Market.
57. Bukiibi-Wanfufu mubulo Mkt-Kamira TC

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
Bids envelopes for all categories should be addressed to:-
The Head of Procurement and Disposal Unit,
Luwero District Local Government,
P.O. Box 78, Luwero.

Bidding will be conducted according to the LG (PPDA) Regulations, 2006.

Bidding Documents can be inspected & may be Purchased at non-refundable fees:-
- Bidding fees (A)- 100,000/=
- Revenue Sources (Grade 1A)-100,000/=
- Revenue Sources (Grade 1B & Grade II) -50,000/=

Per item all payable to URA. Refer to the Accounts Office for Payment Reference Numbers (PRN)

N.B; Bid opening shall be conducted at 11:20am on the same day of bid closing.
;

Proposed Schedule of activities (A-F) is

Bid Advert	30th April 2026
Bid Submission and Opening	29th May 2026 11;00am
Evaluation report	12th June 2026
CC. Decision	15th June2026
Display of BEB Notice	15th June 2026
Comm. Of Award	29th June 2026
Contract Signing	01st July 2026

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER