

Appended Signatures of concerned Members petitioning for funding the District Forestry Services- Kabarole

Date: 28th September 2015

TO: THE DISTRICT COUNCIL KABAROLE

THROUGH: THE SPEAKER KABAROLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

SUBJECT: APPEAL FOR BETTER FINANCING OF THE DISTRICT FORESTRY SERVICES KABAROLE.

BACKGROUND

Kabarole district is endowed with diversity of natural resources, are characterized by rich soils, crater lakes, rivers, wetlands, forests, good scenic beauty and the hospitality of the people. Forests in particular, play a very critical role in tourism attraction, generation of local revenue, watershed protection, provision of energy and medicinal values as well as sites for cultural values.

As you are aware, the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides for enhancing conservation and management of the environment and natural resources under Objective XXVII of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. Similarly, the decentralization framework provided for in the Local Governments Act (1997) involves the devolution of powers from central government to the districts and other lower councils. The Land Act (1998) places the responsibility for regulating land tenure on local autonomous land boards, a level of decision-making that is independent of the executive District authorities. Accordingly the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act (2003), entrusts the management and oversight function of Local Forest Reserves to the office of the District Forest Services, a department which is answerable to the District council as the highest political authority in the District.

It is against this background that Kabarole District CSO Coalition on Forest and Environment, a platform for civil society organizations with activities contributing towards the growth and development of the forestry sector and environment. The coalition is hosted by Kabarole NGOs/CBOs Association (KANCA) a district network of NGOs/CBOs operating in Kabarole.

Kabarole Forest Coalition members identified some key outstanding challenges affecting District Forest Services including management of Nyakigumba, Nyakinoni and Butebe Local Forest Reserves and private Forests as follows; high levels of encroachment of local forest Reserves in form of agriculture, lack of land titles for the existing local forest reserves, little or almost no funding to the sector ,no formal agreement with communities using

S/N Name Organization Signature

S/N	Name	Organization	Signature
15	MUHINDO EDITH	Kabalewa S/C NYAKIGUMBA F	[Signature]
16	Busembanza Alice	Kabalewa S/C Nyakigumba Forest Kabarole Sustains able forest users	[Signature]
17	TULIHABWE DAVID	PCA the Mission of Kabarole Community Biological Field Station	[Signature]
18	BYAKATAMU AARON	Old children village for forest	[Signature]
19	KAPU WANDERU	Government S/C	[Signature]
20	Bibungyi Robert	COUNCILLOR BONNY KARAMBA S/C	[Signature]
21	Mugisa Dorester	Kabarole N/C CBOs Association KABAROLE	[Signature]
22	BANSEBURA BONNY	BUTEBE PARISH COMMUNITY MEMBER	[Signature]
23	Bugumamba Peter	Butebe parish community member	[Signature]
24	KARONGI STLY MARI	Natural Resource Significant NRI	[Signature]
25	Isimbwa peter	COMMUNITY MEMBER KISOMBE S/C	[Signature]
26	Avungiri Chris	United Forest Club	[Signature]
27	TOM MURANGIHA K		[Signature]
28	P. Isaac Murungi		[Signature]

S/N	Name	Organization	Signature
1.	Kalyegira Hamilton	KANCA	[Signature]
2.	TULIUME FRANCIS	VOICE OF NARO (FRO)	[Signature]
3.	Agathe Mutebwa	RAC	[Signature]
4.	K. Kanyigwa	KCC TM	[Signature]
5.	Lucky Peter	Suplec Radio	[Signature]
6.	ALIGANYIRA PIUS	CECO UG	[Signature]
7.	NKUBA JOSEPH	MUBORA WELFARE (MUKATWA)	[Signature]
8.	Nyakoozi Sam	JESE	[Signature]
9.	LUKIBI SAM	RIDE AFRICA	[Signature]
10.	Wamunja Michael	JESE	[Signature]
11.	Paul Erasmus Kasir	Process of Ruralist	[Signature]
12.	BAMUKAMA EVIDE	Karama S/C	[Signature]
13.	KIGANDA SAUL	KATEBUZA S/C (KANCA)	[Signature]
14.	ANNAH Kigoma	Katebwa S/C Nyakinoni Forest	[Signature]

Forest Reserve land, lack of Office equipment's such as computer for documentation, Office in place with no funding to implement activities yet the sector collects average 4 million Uganda shillings a quarter, much of the hilly and forest reserve land is bear without trees and some community members in Butebe included part of the reserve land in their titles. These challenges emanate from lack of resources to support the environment and natural resources department more so the District Forestry Services to execute its core mandate.

We recognize the effort that your leadership has invested in tree planting and environment conservation. However, there is limited impact as the pressure from a predominantly agricultural population continues to affect forest conservation and restoration initiatives. It is worrying to note that most of the private forestry owners are increasingly clearing trees on their land yet even the district owned public land remains bear without planted trees.

If we do not address underlying causes of increased deforestation of local forest reserves, and forests on private land, the district will fall short of achieving the national average target of restoring forest cover from 18% to 24% and the associated far-reaching negative implications will increase in magnitude.

We therefore call upon the

District Local Government,

- To intensify restoration and re-planting of all the Local Forest Reserve land and hilly areas in the district.
- Survey all district Local Forest Reserves and process their land titles to avoid future land conflicts
- Install permanent boundary marks in Butebe Local Forest Reserve
- To integrate communities in the management, of Nyakigumba and Nyakinoni Local Forest Reserves formally
- To increase budget support to the District Forestry Services.
- To integrate tree planting and environment conservation in all sectoral plans and programs within the district development plan, Town Council Development Plans and sub county development plans.

- To strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, including the forestry policies and laws

On our part as Civil Society Organizations, we pledge to continue our efforts in complimenting the district and central government in:

- Creating awareness on importance of conserving environment, Local forest Reserves and tree planting
- Mobilizing communities to participate actively in the management of forest and trees and ensuring that their concerns are incorporated in Sub county, district and national development plans and programmes
- Supporting initiatives towards environment and forestry conservation as a means of improving livelihoods of poor and vulnerable forest dependent communities

The concerns expressed in this Petition have been raised by various stakeholders especially those pursuing Environment and Forestry conservation issues in the district.

It is our prayer that actions presented in this petition are integrated in the respective Sub County and district development plans in order for the district and communities to derive the full benefits of sustainable management of forests and tree resources in supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Signed by

Appended members attached

Cc: Area MP Bunyangabu County

Cc: Women MP- Kabarole District

Cc: Area MP Burahya Country

Cc: The LCV Chairperson - Kabarole District

CC: Residence District Commissioner -Kabarole

CC: Chief Administrative Officer-Kabarole

CC: The District Secretary for production –Kabarole

CC: The District Secretary for Finance –Kabarole

CC: The Chairperson District Production and Natural Resources Committee

CC: District Environment and Natural Resources Office–Kabarole

CC: District Forestry Officer-Kabarole

CC: Sub county Chairpersons of Katebwa, Kisomoro and Karambi

CC: Sub county Chiefs of Katebwa, Kisomoro and Karambi