



# MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### INVITATION FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS ON THE PROPOSED DECLARATION OF KALAGALA-ITANDA OFFSET AREA AS A SPECIAL CONSERVATION AREA

**THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the Hon. Minister of Water and Environment has received recommendation to declare the **Kalagala - Itanda Offset Area** a Special Conservation Area in accordance with section 51 of the National Environment Act, 2019.

**THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY INVITED** to submit written comments and presentations **within 21 days** on the descriptions below;

The **Kalagala-Itanda Offset Area** shall be protected and conserved as a natural habitat and asset(s) and a Water catchment for the Nile system to provide environmental, ecological, social, spiritual, cultural and economic values. The area is also designated an offset area for Bujagali Falls supporting the constructed 250 MW Bujagali Hydropower Project.

**The purpose of the Kalagala -Itanda Offset Special Conservation Area is to:**

- restore and protect the ecological zones along the Nile River banks and associated wetlands and islands within the area specified below;
- sustain the ecological services of the Kalagala - Itanda Water Falls to the central forest reserve, the watershed and Nile River banks;
- maintain the potential for ecotourism within the Kalagala - Itanda Water Falls, including the natural beauty of the waterfalls and rapids;
- protect and enhance aquatic biodiversity and natural habitats, including endemic fish species of global and national conservation concern;
- preserve the cultural heritage sites, assets and social economic values within the Kalagala - Itanda Water Falls; and
- Upgrading the conservation status of the area constituting Kalagala - Itanda Water Falls to be managed as a Special Conservation Area with prohibition of permanent infrastructure development that could adversely affect and alter the ecological functionality, biodiversity and aquatic ecosystem of the Nile River.

#### A. LOCATION

The Kalagala-Itanda Offset Area encompasses the stretch of Nile River approximately 15.7 kilometers along the Nile River beginning upstream at 2.5 kilometers below the Bujagali Dam wall and end downstream at the tail end of the Isimba Dam reservoir (Maximum Pool Level of 1,055 meters above sea level), thereby including;

- the entire Nile River aquatic area within these limits;
- all river islands within these limits;
- all land within 100 meters of both the left and right river banks from the annual maximum high-water line; and
- the entire area of the Namavundu, Kalagala Falls and Nile Bank Central Forest Reserves except any portions inundated by the reservoir of the Isimba Dam".

#### B. SIZE

The described area above is approximately **2,835.5 Hactares** as indicated in the map below;

MAP SHOWING BOUNDARIES AND BUFFER ZONE OF THE EXISTING AND EXTENDED NAMAVUNDU, KALAGALA FALLS AND NILE BANK CENTRAL FOREST RESERVES



#### C. CONSERVATION PRACTICES

The area shall be protected under different management zones, under the guidance of the National Environment Management Authority, the National Forestry Authority and other lead agencies including:

- Special Conservation Areas for the promotion of eco-tourism;
- Special Conservation Areas of

outstanding Natural beauty;

- Special Conservation Areas for Cultural and Traditional heritage;
- Special Conservation Areas for critically endangered species;
- Special Conservation Areas for the preservation of traditional land use; and
- Special Conservation Areas of unique ecological features with endemic species of plants and animals.

The following activities may be **promoted and permitted**;

- Research;
- Tourism;
- Restoration and enhancement of ecological functionality.

#### E. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

The following activities shall be **prohibited in the Kalagala - Itanda Offset Area**;

- Brick making;
- Sand mining;
- Cultivation;
- Drainage;
- Sewerage filtration;
- Fish farming and other aquaculture;
- Construction of permanent infrastructure.

Copies of this Notice and the Map showing the described area have been uploaded on the NEMA website: ([www.nema.go.ug](http://www.nema.go.ug)); NFA website: ([www.nfa.org.ug](http://www.nfa.org.ug)); and the Ministry of Water and Environment Website: ([www.mwe.go.ug](http://www.mwe.go.ug)).

**THE PUBLIC IS FURTHER NOTIFIED** that after 21days, the Minister may proceed to present the proposal to Parliament by way of Statutory Instrument, declaring the Kalagala - Itanda Offset Area a Special Conservation Area in accordance with the National Environment Act, 2019 and related laws.

Written comments and presentations may be hand delivered to-

(a) The Permanent Secretary,  
**Ministry of Water and Environment,**  
Plot 21/28 Port Bell Road,  
P. O. Box 20026,  
Kampala, Uganda  
Email: [mwe@mwe.go.ug](mailto:mwe@mwe.go.ug);

or

(b) The Executive Director,  
**National Environment Management Authority,**  
Plot 17/19/21 Jinja Road,  
P. O. Box 222555,  
Kampala, Uganda  
Email: [info@nema.go.ug](mailto:info@nema.go.ug)

**Hon. Sam Cheptoris**  
Minister of Water and Environment