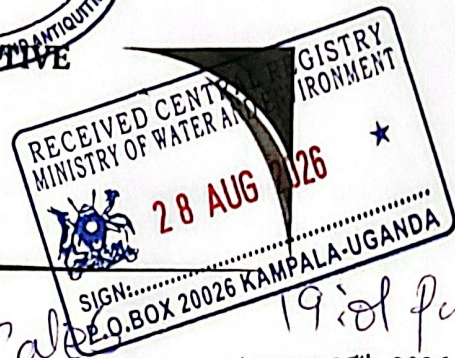




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Received by *Calvin*
19:01 pm
August 28th, 2026
28/08/2026

RE: REQUEST FOR THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO INVESTIGATE AND ADDRESS THE ESCALATING HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT AFFECTING COMMUNITIES IN BULIISA DISTRICT

1. Introduction

Liberty Pro Bono Initiative (LPI) writes to commend you, Hon. Chairperson and the committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry for opening an inquiry into the rising human-wildlife conflict across Uganda. We note with appreciation the committee's decision to receive testimony directly from Members of Parliament representing affected constituencies and its stated intention to visit affected communities and engage the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) before finalising its recommendations. This inquiry comes at a critical time and offers a real opportunity to secure lasting solutions for communities who have, for too long, borne the human cost of coexisting with wildlife.

LPI is a Ugandan non-profit organisation committed to advancing access to justice, environmental protection, climate justice, and the rights of vulnerable and marginalised communities, particularly women and children. Through our work with communities affected by environmental and development pressures, we have observed a marked escalation in human-wildlife conflict in Buliisa district and a corresponding gap in prevention, participation and redress for the families affected.

We therefore write to respectfully request that the Committee formally extend its ongoing inquiry to give focused attention to Buliisa district, and to bring the specific concerns set out below to the attention of the committee as it gathers evidence, engages UWA, and formulates its final recommendations to Parliament.

2. Our concerns

- a. **Escalating elephant incursions in Buliisa district:** Communities neighbouring Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) have reported a rising pattern of elephant incursions into villages and farmland, resulting in the destruction of food crops, injuries, and loss of life. These incidents are occurring against a backdrop of significant environmental change in the Albertine Graben, including agricultural expansion, habitat fragmentation, and the road construction, well-pad development and pipeline infrastructure associated with oil and gas activity. Environmental and social impact assessments prepared for these projects have themselves flagged the sensitivity of the Murchison Falls ecosystem and the need for robust mitigation measures to protect both biodiversity and surrounding communities.



- b. **Rising chimpanzee attacks in the wider sub-region:** Neighbouring Kagadi district has raised alarm over increasing chimpanzee attacks linked to shrinking forest habitat and greater human-wildlife interaction, including fatal attacks involving infants and young children. These tragedies, occurring alongside the elephant incursions in Buliisa, illustrate the severe and at times fatal consequences of habitat loss and inadequate conflict-prevention mechanisms across the sub-region, and underline why a coordinated, area-wide response is needed.
- c. **Threats to the right to life and security:** Beyond their conservation dimension, these incidents raise serious human rights concerns. Families in Buliisa continue to lose loved ones to wildlife attacks, with children, farmers and the elderly especially exposed given their daily presence in farmland and along forest edges. No parent should lose a child to a routine activity such as farming, and no community should be made to live in constant fear of leaving home, attending school or cultivating food.
- d. **Threats to food security, livelihood and the disproportionate burden on women:** The destruction of crops, including cassava, maize, beans, bananas and sweet potatoes, has undermined household food production and deepened poverty among affected families in Buliisa. Women, who typically bear primary responsibility for household food production and caregiving, carry a disproportionate share of this burden: when crops are destroyed, they must find alternative means to feed their families, and when family members are injured, they frequently provide unpaid care while forgoing their own income-generating activities.
- e. **Inadequate prevention, community participation and access to compensation:** The Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 provides for wildlife conservation, the management of problem animals, and mechanisms for compensation. In practice, however, affected communities in Buliisa continue to face significant barriers in accessing timely support and remedies, and are rarely given a meaningful role in the wildlife management decisions that affect their safety and livelihoods. The continued occurrence of fatal attacks and unresolved crop losses indicates that existing prevention, response and accountability measures require urgent strengthening, and that Parliament's oversight role is critical to achieving this.

3. Call for action

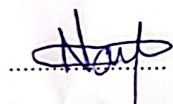
In light of the above, and in support of the committee's ongoing inquiry, LPI respectfully calls upon the Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry to:

- i. Formally incorporate Buliisa district into the current inquiry, including receiving testimony from affected residents, local leaders and Members of Parliament representing Buliisa constituencies.
- ii. Undertake an on-the-ground visit to communities bordering Murchison Falls National Park to assess the scale of elephant incursions and verify reports of resulting deaths, injuries and crop destruction.
- iii. When UWA is summoned before the Committee, require it to account specifically for the status of prevention measures, response times, and outstanding compensation claims relating to Buliisa district.

- iv. Recommend, as part of the Committee's final report, concrete reforms to the compensation framework under the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019, including clear timelines, adequate funding and simplified procedures for claimants.
- v. Recommend the prioritisation of physical mitigation measures for Buliisa, such as electric fencing along high-risk sections of Murchison Falls National Park and improved water sources within the park, to reduce incursions into farmland.
- vi. Recommend that UWA, together with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), National Forestry Authority (NFA), district authorities and oil sector regulators, jointly address the environmental and infrastructural pressures in the Albertine Graben that are contributing to habitat loss and wildlife displacement.
- vii. Recommend gender-responsive and child-sensitive conflict management measures that recognise the distinct risks faced by women and children in Buliisa.
- viii. Ensure that the Committee's final report and recommendations to Parliament are made public, with clear timelines for implementation and designated officers responsible for follow-up.

We thank you for your leadership on this urgent matter and commend the Committee once again for taking up this inquiry. LPI remains available to provide any further information, evidence or support that may assist the Committee, including facilitating engagement with affected communities in Buliisa district.

Yours faithfully,



Doreen Namara
Chief Executive Officer, LPI

Cc:

- ✓ Hon. Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities
- ✓ Executive Director, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
- ✓ Executive Director, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)
- ✓ Permanent Secretary, Min. Water and Environment. / National Forestry Authority.
- Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU)
- ✓ Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission
- Buliisa District Local Government