

**REPORT OF THE SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON TOURISM, TRADE AND
INDUSTRY ON THE UGANDA WILDLIFE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024.**

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Office of the Clerk to Parliament
Parliament of Uganda
KAMPALA

April, 2024

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members,

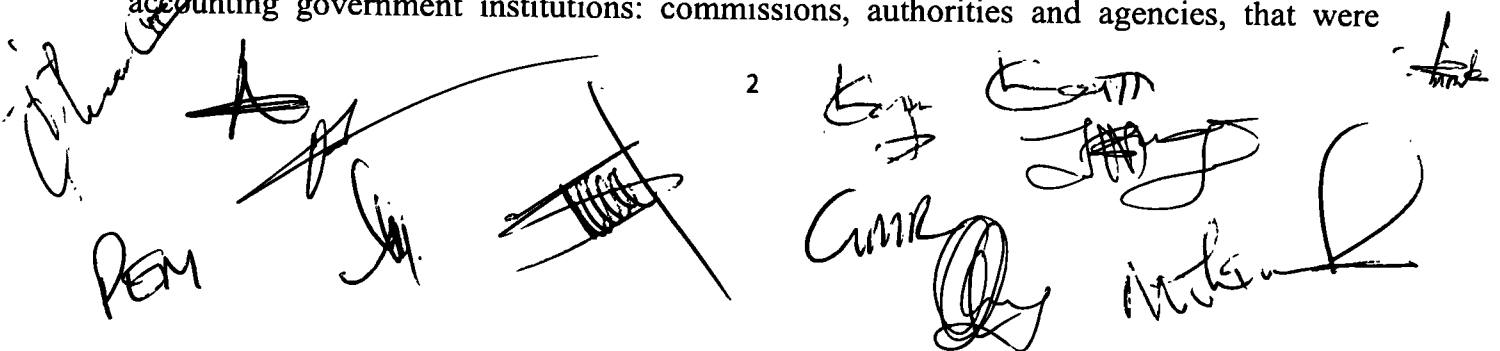
The Uganda Wildlife (Amendment) Bill, 2024 was read for the First Time on Tuesday, 9 April 2024; and in accordance with Rule 129(1) of the Rules of Procedure of the 11th Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, was referred to the Sectoral Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry for scrutiny.

The Committee scrutinized the Bill in accordance with Rule 129(2) of the Rules of Procedure and hereby reports to this House in accordance with Rule 130(2) of the same Rules.

2.0 BACKGROUND TO RATIONALISATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC EXPENDITURE: THE UGANDA WILDLIFE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024.

On 22nd February, 2021, Cabinet took a decision to merge, mainstream and rationalize Government Agencies and Public Expenditure, to facilitate efficient and effective service delivery. This decision followed the 2018 Report by the Ministry of Public Service that detailed findings and recommendations of the review of Government Agencies and Authorities. The primary goals of Rationalization of Government Agencies was to establish their operational relevance; determine their current operational costs; eliminate embedded duplications and overlaps; identify wasteful expenditures; and establish the resultant short term and long term savings, which would be optimally utilized for sustainable socio-economic and political development of the country.

In the early 2,000s Government of Uganda witnessed an increase in the number of self-accounting government institutions: commissions, authorities and agencies, that were

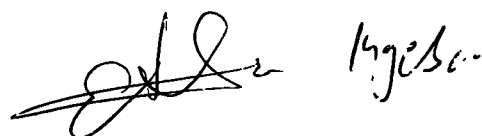


created through parliament's key function of legislation. The creation of these self-autonomous government institutions through Acts of Parliament bestowed on policy/governance and management structures specified in such Acts, key responsibilities of formulation of strategic policies and direction as well as implementation of policies. The Acts of Parliament that created self-autonomous government institutions make specific provisions for cost drivers of such institutions, being Boards, accounting officers and their staff; and further make specific provisions relating to their sources of funds being through parliamentary appropriation, and fees and monies charged by such institutions for goods sold or services rendered. The funds allocated to self-accounting institutions through parliamentary appropriation to finance their activities suggested an annual charge on the Consolidated Fund.

Whereas the Acts of Parliament that created self-autonomous government institutions mandated Ministers to have direct control and oversight over their strategic policy direction through appointment of Boards and the accounting officers, most self-accounting government institutions executed their mandate independent of their Ministry Headquarters.

This Report will focus findings, observations and recommendations on amending the Uganda Wildlife Act 2019 to confer upon the Uganda Wildlife Authority additional functions because of the merger of Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC).

3.0 POLICY AND PRINCIPLES OF THE BILL



The policy behind the Bill is to give effect to the Government Policy for Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure which was adopted by Cabinet on 22nd February 2021.



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4.0 DEFECTS IN EXISTING LAWS.

The Constitution establishes a definite number of Government agencies, including constitutional commissions, authorities, boards, local councils and other statutory bodies. These were established to perform certain specified constitutional functions. Over the years, however, there has been a proliferation of agencies established by Acts of Parliament, Executive Orders and administrative arrangements. Whereas most of the agencies are necessary due to the critical nature of the functions they perform, Government has established that a certain limited number of agencies were established without consideration to the aspects of institutional harmony, functional duplications, overlaps and affordability. Government has also established that some agencies have served the purpose for which they were established. The mandate of a few other agencies has been overtaken by events. Such events need to be rationalized.

More importantly, the proliferation of agencies has created mandate overlaps and jurisdictional ambiguities among the agencies. Additionally, the high cost of administering the agencies has drained the national treasury at the expense of effective service delivery. This has overstretched the capacity of Government to sustain them. Government has also established that the generous salary structures of the agencies has created salary disparities between employees of the agencies and public officers in the traditional civil service leading to demotivation of human resources in the mainstream public service.

5.0 OBJECT OF THE BILL.

The intention of the Bill is to amend the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019 to -

- (a) confer on the Uganda Wildlife Authority additional functions of the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre established by the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Center Act, 2015, thereby, among others, relieving the Government of the financial drain on its resources and the burden of wasteful administration and

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expenditure by maintaining two agencies whose functions may be performed by one agency efficiently and effectively;

- (b) facilitate efficient and effective service delivery by clearly delineating the mandates and functions of the Uganda Wildlife Authority after acquiring the additional functions thereby avoiding duplication of mandates and functions;
- (c) promote coordinated administrative arrangements, policies and procedures for-
 - (i) ensuring the efficient and successful management, financial accounting and budgetary discipline of government agencies and departments;
 - (ii) enabling the Government to play its proper role more effectively; and
 - (iii) enforcing accountability;
- (d) restructure and re-organise the Uganda Wildlife Authority by eliminating bloated structures and functional ambiguities in the performance of its functions including additional functions.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

During the process of considering the Bill, the Committee:

- (a) met and held discussions with the following stakeholders:
 - (i) The Hon. Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities;
 - (ii) The Hon. Minister of Public Service;
 - (iii) The Executive Director and Staff of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); and
 - (iv) The Executive Director and Staff of Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC).

- (b) conducted documentary review of the following literature:

- (i) The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 (*as amended*)

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- (ii) The Wildlife Act, 2019;
- (iii) The Uganda Wildlife Conservation Center Act, 2015;
- (iv) The 2018 Report of the Ministry of Public Service on the Review and Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditures;

5.0 OBSERVATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

5.1 Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

The Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), is a semi-autonomous statutory government agency established in 1996 by an Act of Parliament, Uganda Wildlife statute 1996 (*now Uganda wildlife Act No.17, 2019*) to provide for sustainable management of wildlife in and outside Protected Areas (PAs). UWA has the legal mandate to ensure sustainable management of wildlife and coordinate, monitor and supervise activities related to wildlife management.

Cost Benefit Analysis

	FY 2024/25	FY 2025/26
Category	UGX (billion)	UGX (billion)
Costs	1.334	0
Staff to be laid off	64	0
o/w Terminal benefits	1.334	0
Savings	16.5	16.5
o/w Wage	3.944	3.944
o/w Board expenses	0.2	0.2
o/w Nonwage	12.356	12.356
o/w Development	0	0
Net Savings	15.166	16.5

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The Committee made the following observations:

- (1) That Government is to incur a one-off total cost of UGX 1.334 billion as terminal benefits to be paid to staff who will be affected upon the merger of Uganda Wildlife Conservation with Uganda Wildlife Authority; and that Government has already accommodated the aforementioned cost within the Medium Term Expenditure Framework ceiling for the Ministry of Public Service during the FY 2024/25;
- (2) That both UWA and UWEC played key complementary roles and functions in the promotion and development of tourism, conservation of wildlife and related ecosystems, which roles and functions had associated risks of functional overlaps and duplication;
- (3) That the additional functions and roles conferred upon Uganda Wildlife Authority would lead to stronger institutional capacity in terms of reporting mechanisms and structures; and improvement in financial management practices for wildlife conservation activities. The additional functions would as well lead to: improved communication, collaboration, enhanced monitoring and evaluation of programs, effectiveness and sustainability of wildlife conservation and education efforts in Uganda; and
- (4) That the Bill once enacted into law would enable centralized control over wildlife conservation and education activities and putting in place standardized policies and procedures, clear chain of command, enhanced coordination and collaboration; and would lead to improved service delivery through providing unified conservation and education programs, streamlining visitor services, enhancing conservation outreach,

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improving wildlife protection measures, optimizing administrative processes, investing in infrastructure and technology, and promoting capacity building.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee recommends that Uganda Wildlife Authority be amended to confer on Uganda Wildlife Authority additional functions because of the merger with Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center in order to give effect to the Government Policy on Rationalisation of Government Agencies and Public Expenditure (RAPEX) and for related purposes.

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Members,

I beg to submit

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UGANDA WILDLIFE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024.**

No	Member	Signature
1	Hon. Mwine Mpaka, Chairperson	
2	Hon. Lamwaka Catherine, Vice Chairperson	
3	Hon. Afidra Ronald Olema	
4	Hon. Aleper Margaret Aachilla	
5	Hon. Aloba Joan Acom	
6	Hon. Atukwasa Rita	
7	Hon. Avako Melsa Naima Gule	
8	Hon. Awich Jane	
9	Hon. Awor Betty Engola	
10	Hon. Bright Tom Amooti	
11	Hon. Businge Harriet	
12	Hon. Byakatonda Abdulhu	
13	Hon. Dr. Apio Eunice Otuko	
14	Hon. Edakasi Alfred	
15	Hon. Gafabusa Richard	
16	Hon. Gaffa Mbwaterkamwa	
17	Hon. Isabirye David Aga	
18	Hon. Kaala Kevin Ojinga	

19	Hon. Kamugo Pamela	
20	Hon. Kato Mohammed	
21	Hon. Kayemba Geofrey Ssolo	Kyese
22	Hon. Kemirembe Pauline K.	
23	Hon. Kinobere Herbert Tom	
24	Hon. Kirabo Agnes	
25	Hon. Kirumira Hassan	
26	Hon. Koluo Joseph Andrew	
27	Hon. Kyebakutika Manjeri	
28	Hon. Lukyamuzi David Kalwanga	
29	Hon. Lutaaya Geoffrey	
30	Hon. Masaba Karim	
31	Hon. Mushemeza Elijah	
32	Hon. Mwijukye Francis	
33	Hon. Namukuta Brenda	
34	Hon. Nayebale Sylvia	
35	Hon. Okello Geoffrey Charles	
36	Hon. Olobo James	
37	Hon. Oloru Mourine	
38	Hon. Ssentaayi Muhammad	
39	Hon. Ssimbwa Fred	
40	Hon. Wakayima H. Musoke	
41	Hon. Were Godfrey Odera	