



Press Statement:

August 24, 2020

RE: Bugoma Central Forest Reserve not sold to Hoima Sugar Limited

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) would like to clarify the misleading stories that have been running in sections of the media purporting that the institution authorized sale of Bugoma Central Forest Reserve to Hoima Sugar Limited, for sugarcane growing.

On April 25, 2019 Hon. Wilson Musalu Musene dismissed a case in which NFA had jointly sued Omukama of Bunyoro Kitara, Hoima Sugar Limited and Uganda Land Commission. In his judgement, he indicated that Bunyoro Kingdom acquired freehold interest and legally leased land to Hoima Sugar Limited. NFA subsequently appealed the High Court ruling but lost the case as per the judgement made by Justice Fredrick Egonda-Ntende, on December 3, 2019.

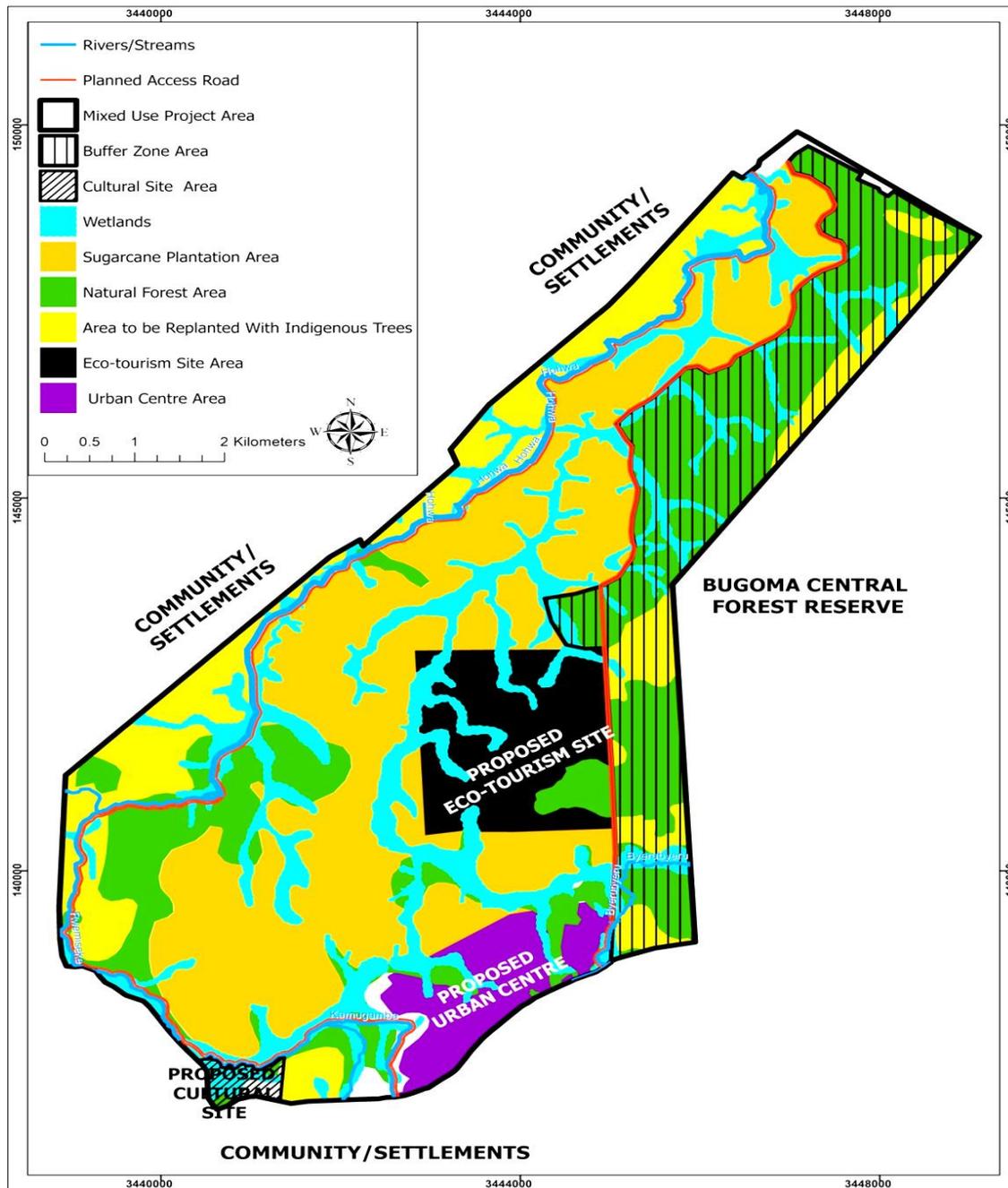
As you are aware, 1995 environment law puts all natural resources in the care of Government for benefit of greater majority. For persons and entities that held titles before 1995, Government of Uganda would have to acquire their interest or compensate them in order to protect the natural resource.

In the circumstances, the best remedy was for NEMA to regulate permissible activities on the land whose ownership had been determined by court. As such, different sections of the said land were legitimately approved for undertaking of legal activities including the following four components;

- Sugarcane Plantation (9.24 sq. miles / 2,393.8483 ha); on an area that was entirely grass land (not forested)
- Urban Centre (1.206 sq. miles / 312.3 ha);
- Eco-tourism: Eco-tourism Centre (1.97 sq. miles / 510.2277 ha); Cultural Site (0.156 sq. miles / 40.4038 ha); and, the natural reserved forest and nature walk-ways/trails (6.17 sq. miles / 1598.023 ha)
- Degraded areas for restoration (3.13 sq. miles / 810.663 ha).

Further, all the fragile ecosystems within the project area including the rivers, streams, wetlands/swamps, steep hill slopes, among others, shall be protected, in accordance with the law and the developer is required to undertake enrichment planting on an area measuring **3.8919 sq. miles** (1,008 ha) comprising the buffer zones bordering the Bugoma Central Forest, River Hohwa and its tributaries

Map of project area showing project components



The above map shows a remarkable case of sustainable development where all considerations are made to ensure that economic, social and environments aspects of the project are appreciated.

For more information contact

National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)

NEMA House Plot 17/19/21 Jinja Road

P. O. Box 22255 Kampala Uganda

Tel: +256 414 251064/5/8; Email: info@nemaug.org; www.nema.go.ug