



## 50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON: 19<sup>th</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE SPHERE

## 2026 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

### PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK THREE: 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
14	Monday	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025	Land and Soil Management
15	Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025	Water Management
16	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025	Biodiversity & the Natural Environment
17	Thursday	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Wildlife
18	Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Livestock, Fisheries and Agriculture
19	Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Energy
20	Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	Minerals and Natural Resources

### DAY 17: 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025

### UGANDA'S WILDLIFE AND GOVERNANCE

#### JOB 12:7-10

*“But ask the animals, and they will teach you... In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”*

#### GENESIS 1:25

*“God made the wild animals according to their kinds... and God saw that it was good.”*

#### PSALM 50:10, 11

*“For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.  
I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine..”*

#### PROVERBS 12:10

*“The righteous care for the needs of their animals.”*

### Introduction: Uganda's Natural Heritage

Uganda is a biodiversity hotspot and home to some of the most unique fauna in the world. From the mountain gorillas in Bwindi and Mgahinga (found only in Uganda, Rwanda, and the DRC), to the tree-climbing lions of Ishasha in Queen Elizabeth National Park, to the shoebill stork, Uganda's wildlife attracts global attention.

Tourism based on this wildlife contributes significantly to the economy, but also to Uganda's identity as the Pearl of Africa. Yet, without righteous governance, this treasure is at risk from poaching, encroachment, and corruption.

## 1. Uganda's Unique Fauna

Uganda's wildlife is exceptionally diverse because it sits at the crossroads of the East African savanna, Central African rainforest, and montane ecosystems.

- **Mountain Gorillas:** Over 50% of the world's remaining population live in Bwindi and Mgahinga. Gorilla trekking is one of the top global tourism experiences.
- **Tree-Climbing Lions:** Rare lions that climb fig trees in Ishasha (Queen Elizabeth NP).
- **Birdlife:** Over 1,080 bird species, including the shoebill stork, crowned crane (national bird), and African fish eagle.
- **Big Game:** Elephants, buffaloes, leopards, giraffes, hippos, and crocodiles.
- **Primates:** Uganda is the primate capital of the world with chimpanzees in Kibale Forest and golden monkeys in Mgahinga.

## 2. Wildlife and Economic Development

On April 17, 2025, The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities on Thursday released the 2024 Tourism Performance Statistics at Hotel Africa under the theme "*A Year of Growth and Recovery*". According to the Report, International tourism receipts grew to UGX 4.8 trillion (approximately USD 1.28 billion), up from USD 1.025 billion in 2023, contributing 16% of Uganda's total exports.

2024 was also marked by significant recognition at the international level:

- Uganda was voted the "*Most Desirable Country in the Rest of the World*" by Wanderlust Travel Awards 2024.
- Featured among the Top 4 places to visit in 2024 by Bradt Guides.
- Listed as a top travel destination by CNN, National Geographic, The New York Times, and Lonely Planet.

Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi earns millions in permits annually. Safaris in Queen Elizabeth, Murchison Falls, and Kidepo attract thousands of tourists. Birding is an emerging niche tourism sector. But governance determines whether these revenues benefit the nation and local communities, or are lost to corruption and poor planning.

## 3. Governance Challenges in Wildlife Conservation

- **Poaching:** Elephants for ivory, pangolins for scales, bushmeat hunting.
- **Illegal Wildlife Trade:** Uganda is a regional hub for ivory smuggling.
- **Encroachment:** Farming and settlements in wetlands and park lands.
- **Weak Enforcement:** Corruption within law enforcement undermines protection.

*Isaiah 24:5 — "The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws."*

## 4. Human-Wildlife Conflict

Communities near parks often bear the cost of conservation:

- Elephants destroying crops in Kasese, Nwoya, and Kiryandongo.
- Lions preying on livestock in Queen Elizabeth NP.
- Crocodiles attacking fishermen on Lake Albert and the Nile.

Governance must balance protection of wildlife with human needs, ensuring compensation schemes, alternative livelihoods, and community involvement.

## 5. Uganda's Most Threatened Species

### i. African Elephant (*Loxodonta africana*)

- **Significance:** Key tourist attraction, vital for ecosystem balance (seed dispersal, creating water holes).
- **Threats:** Poaching for ivory, habitat loss due to encroachment, climate change reducing grazing areas.
- **Governance Implications:** Stronger anti-poaching enforcement, cross-border wildlife protection agreements, and community participation in conservation.

*Job 39:9–11 — “Will the wild ox consent to serve you? Will it stay by your manger at night? Can you hold it to the furrow with a harness? Will it till the valleys behind you?” —* reminding us of God’s sovereignty over mighty creatures.

#### ii. Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*)

- **Significance:** Uganda hosts over **50% of the world’s remaining population**, found in Bwindi Impenetrable and Mgahinga National Parks. Gorilla tourism is a major revenue earner.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, disease transmission from humans, poaching snares.
- **Governance Implications:** Strict regulation of tourism, community conservation programs, and international partnerships for protection.

#### iii. Rothschild’s Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis rothschildi*)

- **Significance:** Uganda’s giraffes are among the most endangered subspecies in the world, found mainly in Murchison Falls, Lake Mburo, and Kidepo Valley National Parks.
- **Threats:** Poaching for meat and hides, habitat encroachment, low genetic diversity.
- **Governance Implications:** Habitat protection, anti-poaching patrols, translocation programs (UWA has moved giraffes to expand populations).

#### iv. Lion (*Panthera leo*)

- **Significance:** Uganda’s **Ishasha tree-climbing lions** are globally unique, attracting tourists to Queen Elizabeth National Park.
- **Threats:** Poisoning by herders in retaliation for livestock predation, habitat loss, illegal hunting.
- **Governance Implications:** Strengthening human-wildlife conflict mitigation, fair compensation schemes for farmers, and awareness campaigns.

#### v. Pangolin (*Manis spp.*)

- **Significance:** Known as “scaly anteaters,” pangolins are vital for insect control and are highly trafficked globally. Uganda is a hotspot for pangolin trafficking.
- **Threats:** Illegal trade for scales and meat, habitat loss.
- **Governance Implications:** Stronger border enforcement, dismantling wildlife crime syndicates, community education.

#### vi. Shoebill Stork (*Balaeniceps rex*)


- **Significance:** Rare bird, iconic for birdwatchers. Found in Mabamba Wetland and along Lake Victoria.
- **Threats:** Wetland destruction, egg collection, and disturbance by unregulated tourism.
- **Governance Implications:** Wetland protection policies, eco-tourism regulation, and habitat restoration.

#### vii. Rhinoceros (White Rhino - *Ceratotherium simum*)

- **Significance:** Once native to Uganda, rhinos became extinct in the wild due to poaching in the 1980s. They have since been reintroduced at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary.
- **Threats:** High-value poaching, limited protected range.
- **Governance Implications:** Scaling up rhino conservation programs, expanding sanctuaries, and ensuring security.

## 6. Stewardship for Future Generations

Wildlife cannot be replaced once extinct. Uganda's children deserve to see gorillas, lions, and shoebills, not just read about them in books. Governance must strengthen laws, fund conservation, and educate communities.

 *Numbers 35:33–34 — “Do not pollute the land... Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell.”*

## Conclusion

Uganda's wildlife is a global heritage and a divine trust. Its conservation is both an economic necessity and a spiritual duty. Good governance ensures that Uganda remains the Pearl of Africa, known for its beauty and biodiversity. Poor governance will turn the pearl into dust.

## PRAYER GUIDE: WILDLIFE AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

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### 1. Thanksgiving for God's Creation

- *Psalms 50:10–11 — “For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills... I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine.”*
- *Psalms 104:24 — “How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all.”*

Lord, thank You for Uganda's elephants, gorillas, giraffes, lions, pangolins, shoebills, rhinos, and countless species. We bless You for making this land a sanctuary of biodiversity. Thank You for making Uganda a Pearl of Africa

### 2. Repentance for Neglect and Exploitation

- *Jeremiah 12:4 — “How long will the land lie parched... because those who live in it are wicked?”*
- *Jeremiah 2:7 — “I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land.”*

Forgive Uganda for poaching, illegal trade, corruption, and encroachment that have harmed and destroyed wildlife and ecosystems through corruption, greed, and neglect. Cleanse Uganda of greed and neglect.

### 3. Prayer for Leaders, Conservation Institutions and Protection of Endangered Species

*Proverbs 8:15–16 — “By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just.”*

- *Proverbs 12:10 — “The righteous care for the needs of their animals.”*

Lord, strengthen Uganda Wildlife Authority, rangers, and policymakers. Grant wisdom, courage, and integrity to manage parks, fight poaching, and regulate tourism revenues.



- Lord, protect elephants from poachers, lions from poisoning, and pangolins from traffickers. Let rangers be courageous and well-supported in their work.
- Raise leaders who will enforce conservation laws without corruption. Expose smuggling syndicates and bring justice for exploited wildlife.

#### **4. Prayer for Communities Near Wildlife Areas**

*Isaiah 32:18 — “My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”*

- Lord, protect farmers, herders, and fishermen from human-wildlife conflict. Provide compensation for losses, alternative livelihoods, and community development projects.
- Provide peace where wildlife and people share space. Grant fair compensation for losses, and help communities see wildlife as a blessing, not a burden.

#### **5. Prayer Against Poaching and Illegal Trade**

*Isaiah 61:8 — “For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing.”*

Lord, dismantle poaching networks and smuggling cartels. Protect elephants, pangolins, lions, and gorillas. Guard rangers who risk their lives to protect wildlife.

#### **6. Prayer for Stewardship and Future Generations**

*Genesis 2:15 — “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”*

Lord, teach Ugandans to be faithful stewards of creation. Inspire education, eco-tourism, and conservation programs. Let future generations inherit a Uganda rich in wildlife.

#### **7. Prayer for Restoration and Future Generations**

*Joel 2:25 — “I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten.”*

Lord, restore rhinos to Uganda’s wild, increase gorilla populations, and let our children inherit a Uganda rich in animals and beauty.

#### **8. Prayer for National Identity and Renewal**

*Isaiah 60:13 — “I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler.”*

Lord, may the crested crane and all of Uganda’s wildlife continue to symbolize peace, dignity, and hope. Let conservation strengthen Uganda’s unity, pride, and prosperity.

#### **Closing Prayer**

Father, we lift up Uganda’s wildlife to You. Thank You for making this land a sanctuary of creation. Forgive us for exploitation, corruption, and neglect. Raise up righteous leaders, committed rangers, responsible citizens and communities who will steward this gift. Protect our gorillas, lions, cranes, and all species from extinction. May Uganda’s wildlife flourish as a testimony of Your wisdom and as a blessing to the world. Uganda’s wildlife belongs to You. Protect these threatened species from extinction. Break the chains of poaching and illegal

trade. May Uganda's wildlife once again flourish, making the nation a true Pearl of Africa and a witness of Your wisdom in creation. In Jesus' name, Amen.