

Kiwaatule-2030: Building Post-Colonial Urban Futures

Tusimbudde! We've set off!

Growing together from struggle to joy in Ubuntu.

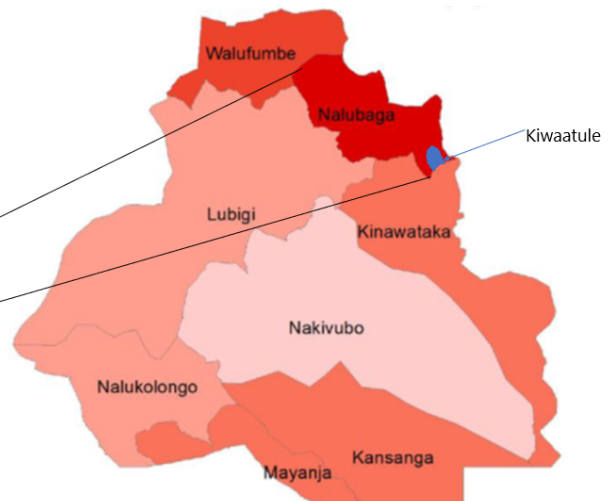
I. Overview

Kiwaatule-2030 is a community-led uprising against urban fragmentation and dysfunction. We are creating the conditions for pooling land development decisions in the Nalubaaga Bioregion to reverse the extinction of our wetland ecosystem and catalyze a regenerative urban future.

Nalubaaga wetland bioregion in Kampala?



Map showing the flow of Nalubaaga, into Lwajjali, Ssezibwa, Kyoga, Nile.



Major Wetland Bioregions in Kampala Metro
Source: UN/World Bank/Kampala Capital City Authority

We are executing strategic activities across three spheres of influence: [Land](#), [Governance](#), and [Money](#) – each an evolutionary shift toward enriching our species' relation with life.

LAND: Transitioning fragmented parcels of private land into a co-stewarded ecosystem.

GOVERNANCE: From top-down control to Obutaka – the land-sourced ancestry to belonging, authority and duty to care for all life in our place, all through a Distributed Stewarding Cooperative.

MONEY: Redirecting money from extraction to enriching life – relations in our place.

In 5-10 years, this triple-shift should dream and grow us into a future of **ecological restoration**, reforestation, and rewilding Nalubaaga wetland into a nature park; **social flourishing** (renewing a culture of stewarding life, rebuilding essential services and spaces), and **economic viability** (innovating informal supply chains into a new economy

of co-owned enterprises, services, real estate, hospitality, eco-spiritual tourism, finance, etc).

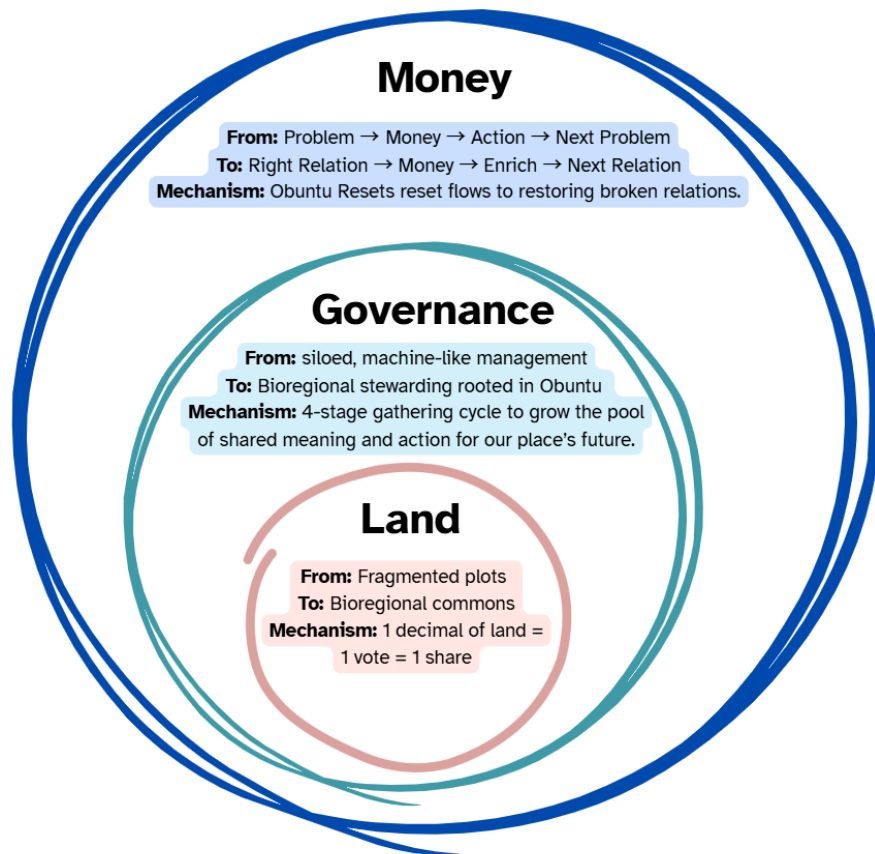
In this learning-by-doing initiative, we're building the cultural commons (*processes, structures, systems*) to gracefully transition urban land from speculative markets into living commons, all rooted in Ubuntu.

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Kiwaatule-2030's Systemic Evolution to Ubuntu

3 Spheres of Influence



3 systemic shifts

Money shift: -

Modern way: Money as tool for extraction, chases crises and symptoms, reinforcing dependency and depletion →

Ubuntu way: Money as kin, follows the healing of human-nature relations, reinforcing coherence, wholeness and resilience in place.

Governance shift:

Modern way: Govern urban places as machines - top-down, control, extract →

Ubuntu way: Co-steward urban places as living commons - listen, care, co-evolve.

Land Shift:

Modern way: Landowning titles entitle 'USING' land as a resource →

Ubuntu way: Landstewarding interests in 'CARING' for land as a source of all life. Land begets life, not debt.

II. Land Shift:

Modern way: Land as a resource →

Obuntu way: Land as a source of life

Purpose: To shift public consciousness from *using urban land as a commodity for extractive accumulation* to *caring for land as a source of all life*. The means transitioning from fragmented plot development to coordinated life-enriching land development and bioregional stewarding.

Product: A collective land stewarding layer on top of private landholdings that enables landowners to pool land development decisions, attracting long-term finance for:

- Restoring, reforesting and rewilding Nalubaaga wetland as a living system contributing to Kiwaatule's vitality, viability, and co-evolution to higher-orders of potential.
- Rebuilding 5,000+ regenerative housing units, enterprises and services.
- Reviving land-based cultures, caring for biodiversity and climate resilience.

Process:

1. **Rebuild trust** through Neighbourhood Kinship Dialogues and one-on-one dialogues surfacing what people value, challenges and the life they dream of in Kiwaatule.
2. **Rebuild capacity for collective** decision-making through the Obuntu Resets System, where landowners jointly decide on priorities, roadmaps, and budgets for Quick, Inexpensive, Simple, Systemic acts of collaboration with the community.
3. **Create a galvanising story of Kiwaatule's renewal** coalescing stakeholder interests through a Landcare Visioning Center where landowners ko-design with specialists regenerative scenarios for 2030.
4. **Secure landowners' interests** by engaging authorities to convert land-owning titles into land-stewarding interests that recognize collective governance and pooling of land development decisions.
5. **Organise Land Recommoning ceremonies**, welcoming land back from speculative markets to living commons while celebrating recommoners and motivating others.
6. **Underwrite the transition** through a Land Recommoning Fund coordinating blended finance for temporary relocation, ecosystem restoration, and rebuilding.
7. **Restore, reforest, rewild** Nalubaaga into a thriving biodiverse nature park, unlocking her eco-spiritual tourism potential through common-based enterprises.

Relational Capability:

- Landowners evolve into **landstewards** — guardians of soils, waterways, air, biodiversity, and the cultural spirit of loving and caring for their place.
- They sustain natural, social, and economic vitality, enhancing Kiwaatule's capacity to continually evolve into higher orders of potential.
- Land begets life, not debt.

III. Governance Shift:

Modern way: Govern urban places as machines – top-down, control, extract →

Obuntu way: Co-steward urban places as living commons – listen/sense, care, co-evolve.

Purpose: Building Capacity & Capability for Collective Decision making as a stepping stone to a bioregional stewarding/governance model rooted in Obuntu, where Emitala (natural boundaries) shape our social consciousness rather than arbitrary political lines.

Product:

A Distributed Stewarding Cooperative with processes, structures, and systems enabling landstewards, the wetland herself, and future generations to participate in right relation with their place. All through collective decision-making grounded in **Obuntu—the nested interdependence of all life** in a place/bioregion;

- **Digital platform with quadratic voting:** "1 decimal of land = 1 stewarding vote & 1 share"
- **Wetland as structural counter-balancer** against big landowners participating in relational decisions.
- **Obuwanika (Stewarding) Fund** for collective resource allocation.
- **Living policy lab** to experiment (with the state) Obuntu-sourced policies for the future of bioregional planning and development.

Process: a four-stage gathering cycle redirecting our *attention and intention* toward Obuntu.

1. **Knowledge gathering:** Identify a broken relation, gather Indigenous Knowledge and weave it with modern insights – as sources a new **pool of shared understanding** to inform the ko-design of how that relation can be enriched.
2. **Kin gathering:** Landstewards (who can), the wetland proxies, and future generations make sense of gathered knowledge – creating a new **pool of shared meaning** and pathways.
3. **Decision gathering:** Landstewards, the wetland, and future generations through quadratic voting (1 decimal of land = 1 vote) via a digital platform practice collective decision-making on priorities, roadmaps or budgets; creating and endorsing a new **pool of shared intent** for our place.
4. **Action gathering:** Agreed **shared actions** are assigned and implemented to create evolutionary change into a thriving future. Where necessary, impact is measured, reported, and the cycle begins again to restore and enrich the next broken relation.

Relational Capability:

1. Communities develop the ability to **self-organize around natural boundaries (Emitala)**, self-manage shared resources, and self-regenerate through trust, collaboration, and cultural renewal.
2. Spiritual renewal: individuals see themselves contributing to something larger than self.

3. They gain capacity to coordinate internal and external resources — long-term regenerative finance, policy support, and knowledge partnerships — for ongoing evolution.
4. They also **restore the human role of stewarding life on Earth** — shifting from landowning to landstewarding, and from fragmented, plot-by-plot development to **coherent bioregional stewardship** guided by the integrity of place.
5. For urban development, this builds the **cultural and process infrastructure** needed to gracefully transition land from speculative markets to **living commons** — transforming diminishing returns on land into **regenerative value** that enhances natural, social, and economic health.

IV. Money Shift:

Modern way: Money as tool for extraction, chases crises and symptoms, reinforcing dependency and depletion →

Ubuntu way: Money as kin, follows the healing of human–nature relations, reinforcing bioregional coherence, wholeness and resilience.

Purpose: Automating catalytic funding for regeneration, and placing relational health — not top-down impact metrics — at the center of funding decisions, through community-led sense-making, fundraising, implementation, measurement, reporting, and verification.

Product: Ubuntu Resets – a governance process + platform converting broken human-nature relations into credible, measurable, fundable community issued units to fund relation-enriching community activities like:

- Nature-aligned waste to value activities (e.g. \$10/reset)
- Wetland restoration activities, like replanting native species, et.c.
- Enabling clean cooking energy transitions (eco-stoves pay-as-you-go e.g. \$6/reset)
- Support healthy/indigenous food systems through flexible farmer contracts
- Strengthen stewardship capacity and cultural renewal
- Support mutual credit networks and community-owned enterprises, etc.

Process:

1. **Build:** [Ubuntu Resets](#) – as 2-in-1 relational (bioregional governance + fundraising) digital platform for resetting money flows towards enriching relations in place.
2. **Assess** broken relations: Community committee identifies broken human-ecological relations (waste→wetland, residents→clean energy, youth→purpose)
3. **Issue** Ubuntu Resets: Convert assessments into units enabling institutions / individuals with environmental / social interests and obligations to invest in relation-healing actions.
4. **Govern:** The *Obuwanika (Stewarding) Fund* enables landstewards, wetland and future generations to collectively decide how funds are used for regenerative activities, using quadratic voting to direct funds toward Quick, Inexpensive, Simple and Systemic activities that heal broken relations.

5. **Activate:** actions are implemented generating ripple effects, each Reset creates cascading relational healing (e.g., waste Resets improves human→wetland→soil→food→hope→collective agency→stewardship)
6. **Grow:** funder network, build a community of individual and institutional funders who as co-stewards invest in long-term bioregional relational health (not offsets).

Relational Capability:

1. Communities gain the capacity to identify, ko-design, and fund life-centered initiatives.
2. Investors and donors evolve into co-stewards of relational health, where;
3. Money flows according to life's needs — enriching relations rather than depleting them through imposed projects or metrics.
4. Each restored and enriched relation strengthens the web of life, reinforcing coherence, wholeness and (natural, social, economic) resilience.

V. Relations we are enriching so far:

Relation Being Enriched	Activity Description	What (<i>Key actions taken</i>)	Investment
Residents ⇌ Community	Neighbourhood Kinship Dialogues	Hosted 13 dialogues across zones with 100+ residents; facilitated conversations exploring what people value, their challenges, and life they dream of in Kiwaatule. Strengthened collective sense of belonging.	\$8,000
Residents ⇌ Place Knowledge	Community Mapping Exercise	Week-long participatory mapping (Sept 8-15, 2025) covering 300+ acres; 80+ participants documented waste hotspots, flood zones, biodiversity, cultural sites, security concerns, and opportunities for renewal. Generated data informing the regeneration plan.	\$8,000
Landowners ⇌ Collective Vision	One-on-One at-home Dialogues	Strategic conversations with 40+ landowners (across economic spectrum, resisters & enthusiasts) to visualise a future of commoned land, the process, and collective action exploring willingness to pool land development decisions; documented 92% willingness when linked to tangible ecological, social and economic benefits.	\$600
Landowners ⇌ Stewardship Identity	Conference of Landstewards (April 26, 2025)	First formal gathering of 60+ landowners at Kiwaatule Country Club; transformed skepticism into collective will through visioning exercises; symbolic Obuwanika Drumming Ceremony reawakening "Drummings of Joy"; created shared intent and ownership of vision.	\$6,200
Landowners ⇌ Collective Governance	Nominating Organizing Committee	19-person committee nominated through participatory process (balanced by age, gender, landscape - upper/lower, diverse livelihoods); committee includes elders, youth, women; members became ambassadors taking NVC vision to neighbors	

Community ⇌ Governance Capacity	Organizing Committee Operational Work	Committee holding regular meetings to: (1) co-draft Ubuntu-informed charter for NVC, (2) prepare legal documentation for NVC registration as distributed stewarding cooperative, (3) design enrollment process for willing landstewards, (4) coordinate with legal partners (Earth Law Center) on innovative wetland shareholding provisions. Co-created bylaws anchored in 1 decimal = 1 vote/share principle. Draft ready for adoption at first General Assembly.	
Residents ⇌ Wetland	Honouring wetland as a living being	Embedding Nalubaaga wetland into the decision-making processes and structures of Nalubaaga Valley Community enabling her to participate in right relation with residents as a living being able to contribute to Kiwaatule's vitality and viability.	
Community ⇌ State Institutions	Engagements with KCCA & NEMA	Initiated dialogues with City Authority, Environment Authority, and Ministry of cooperatives, for alignment with urban wetlands policy and regenerative zoning, initiated conversations on pausing construction permits in project areas, integrating NVC into formal urban framework.	\$200
Women ⇌ Voice ⇌ Agency	Women's Focus Group Discussions	3 focus groups centering women as co-researchers (not subjects); documented gendered impacts of wetland degradation, women's vision for change and women's leadership in re-imagining community care systems.	\$2,000
Residents ⇌ Trust in Place	Inception & Validation Meetings	Large community gatherings (50+ participants) using yarn-web exercise to visualize interdependence by speaking for nonhuman beings in our place; validated the community's mandate to pursue shared regeneration; addressed fears around "land grabbing" through transparent dialogue, and people seeing Kiwaatule as a whole.	\$3,000
Residents ⇌ Cultural indicator species ⇌ Indigenous Wisdom	Elder Interviews & Story Gathering	Documented historical ecology from long-term residents (forests, fruit trees → canes, yams, monkeys, medicinal herbs, clay, papyrus, ritual sites, leopard, etc); captured memories of healthy Nalubaaga from elders who remember 30+ years ago; identified Mr. Yaweh (whose compound now hosts monkeys displaced from wetland, he's offered to Re-common land)	\$2,000

Community ⇌ Shared Narrative	Story Synthesis & Documentation	Analyzed all engagement data to identify patterns; crafted "Story of Kiwaatule" showing shift from conflict narrative to regenerative possibility; emotional response mapping showing highest positive affect for Collective Land Governance, Ubuntu Philosophy Revival, Transparent Governance	
Glocal Network ⇌ Local Initiative	Learning Partnerships Established	Engaged with a network of learning partners including Indigenous Commons, Indigenous Knowledge Systems Lab, AIME, Centre for Public Impact, Earth Law Center, Regenesi Institute, National Land Coalitions, Columbia University, Makerere University Urban Planning.	

Total Investment to Date: \$30,000

Key Outcomes:

- General awakening to the potential of a new future across 16 of 28 neighbourhoods, on over 500 acres of land.
- 13 core relations are moving from broken/absent → emerging; residents ⇌ trust, residents ⇌ care, residents ⇌ collective will, residents ⇌ hope, residents ⇌ wetland, residents ⇌ waste, residents ⇌ unity, landowners ⇌ stewardship, landowners ⇌ collective decision-making, residents ⇌ Ubuntu, etc.
- 24 out of 27 landowners (representing ~90% of 250+ landowners across 28 neighbourhoods) are excited to collectively govern 500+ acres and co-steward their place to higher potential. 60+ attended the Conference of landstewards and 38 enrolled to register NVC.
- Landowners nominated a 19-member Organizing Committee that is now operational and meeting regularly, drafted a charter/bylaws for the cooperative.
- Legal registration process for NVC underway with innovative wetland shareholding, and land-based shares model
- Policy dialogue initiated with city and national authorities to support a community-led, state-enabled model.
- Evidence base established showing genuine community-led demand (not imposed project)
- Shift from "my plot" language → "our place" language emerging in community

VI. Relations to enrich in the coming quarter

Note: Many activities deepen relations already begun while also activating new ones

Relation Being Enriched	Activity Description	What (Concrete deliverables & process steps)	Budget
Community ⇌ Trust ⇌ Governance	Complete NVC Registration Process as a legal vehicle to the future.	Engage government Registrar of Cooperative Societies to register Nalubaaga Valley Community cooperative; prepare coherent legal & socio-economic case for the Obuntu Stewarding Framework (1 dec = 1 vote = 1 share + wetland + future generations participating in decision-making) emphasizing alignment with Uganda Vision 2040; navigate approval process; receive official registration certificate; celebrate formal legal recognition with community ceremony.	\$3,000
Landowners ⇌ Will ⇌ Care ⇌ Agency ⇌ (mother) land	Co-Design & Launch Enrollment Process	Design accessible enrollment system for willing landstewards to join NVC; create enrollment materials (forms, explainers, benefits); develop digital tracking system; possibly introduce a modest registration amount — or gift option for those who can without excluding those who are constrained.	\$2,800
Landowners ⇌ Stewarding Identity	2nd Conference of Landstewards	Host formal gathering to endorse collective stewarding charter, enrol new members willing to journey together, and adopt “land stewarding oath.” Ceremony marking the upgrade from mere landowning to collective care of our place.	\$6,500
Landowners ⇌ Collective Governance Practice	Organise first collective decision	Organise our first collective decision about prioritising progressive acts of collaboration – enabling landstewards experience the new obuntu governance (1 dec = 1 vote). Generate a list of progressive activities we could do together, invite landowners to make sense of the activities, and make decisions about priorities, generating a community roadmap.	\$5,000

	Obuwanika (stewarding) Fund Pilot	Establish the Obuwanika (stewarding) Fund – designed for collective decisions, train 50+ landstewards on quadratic voting (1 decimal = 1 vote) via smartphone app/USSD; hold first voting cycle on 3-5 Quick, Inexpensive, Simple, Systemic (QuISS) activities; implement top-voted initiatives with transparent tracking	\$1,000
Future Generations ⇌ Voice in Present	Council of Future Generations Nomination	Nominate a 7-member council (youth 13-25 years, children's advocates, elders with intergenerational wisdom) to speak for those not yet born; Council participates in all Kin Gatherings and Decision Gatherings with voice in decisions; youth lead 3 school dialogues on "what we want to inherit"	\$6,200
Nalubaaga Wetland ⇌ Personhood	Elders Focus Group - Voicing the Wetland	Gather 12 elders (including 73-year-old who fished from Nalubaaga) for 3-day ceremony at headwaters of Nalubaaga wetland (source); Day 1: share memories of healthy Nalubaaga (medicinal herbs, fish, rituals, clay, papyrus, etc.); Day 2: attune to current state—what is she experiencing?; Day 3: draft "Nalubaaga's Testimony" as moral and legal reference for recognizing wetland personhood; identify cultural indicator species, and 3 ongoing ritual practices for wetland communication	\$8,800
Landowners ⇌ Recommoning Practice	First Land Recommoning Ceremony	Celebrate pioneer landowner who expressed interest in Re-commoning land to motivate others; public ritual honoring "land returning to service of all life"; (if necessary) legal "Recommoning Agreement" drafted protecting owner rights while enabling collective use; decide together what can be done on the land.	\$5,000
Money ⇌ Obuntu (Relational Healing, not Problem-Solving)	Obuntu Resets Platform MVP Development	Build digital platform (web + mobile) converting human-nature relation healing into credible, measurable, fundable units; includes: community assessment interface, committee issuing Obuntu Resets (units of funding for enriching relations), funder portal, Obuwanika Fund management, quadratic voting system, transparency dashboard showing cascading effects of healed relations, et.c.	\$30,000

Community ⇌ State	Partnership Formalization Meetings	Structured dialogue between Organizing Committee, Local Council leadership; negotiate Memorandum of Understanding outlining mutual responsibilities; secure LC endorsement of Nalubaaga Valley Community registration, bylaw support, KCCA coordination leading to policy sandbox MoU on community-led, state-enabled development.	\$800
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Total Q4 Investment Needed: \$69,100

Expected Relational Health Outcomes:

- Ubuntu Governance system transitions from prototype → operational (Ubuntu Gathering Cycle + Obuwanika Fund + Charter / Bylaws + NVC registration complete)
- 10 + key relations progress from fragile → healing
- 300 + households start adopting regenerative practices
- 10+ local enterprises embedded in regenerative economy
- Ubuntu Resets digital platform live enabling continuous collective governance and funding
- Formalise institutional collaboration established with KCCA, NEMA, and universities for policy learning

VII. Further resources:

[Ubuntu Stewarding Framework](#)

[Ubuntu Resets System](#)

[Kiwaatule-2030 Report](#)

[One pager](#)

[Media](#)