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13

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Gulu starts demarcation of wetlands

GULU. Gulu Municipality has embarked on mass boundary demarcation of wetlands in a bid to conserve them.

The exercise follows an acute water crisis that hit the municipality in 2016 and early this year.

Environment experts attributed the water shortage to the increasing destruction of water catchment areas such as wetlands and forests.

Records from the environ-

ment department indicate that 40 per cent of wetlands in the municipality have been degraded through human activities such as farming, house construction and sand mining.

The municipal environment officer, Mr James Ocaka, said the threat being imposed by human activities on wetlands has forced them to demarcate the areas.

According to Mr Ocaka, the

exercise involves retracing wetland boundaries and placing mark stones.

He noted that the process covers 25km stretch of the available wetlands within the municipality.

Mr Ocaka said the most affected wetlands are Pece stream, Oyitino and Layibi.

"We have already demarcated and marked 14km of the available wetlands. This ex-

ercise is continuous and we expect to demarcate all wetlands," Mr Ocaka told *Daily Monitor* in an interview on Wednesday.

Mr Alex Kayalwa, the regional environment police protection officer, said the continued encroachment on wetlands has affected the weather patterns in the region. "We want to act tough on those destroying the environment," he said.