

[View this email in your browser](#)



Newsletter | Issue Date: April 2024

Greenwatch is Celebrating 29 years of Environmental Advocacy!

From the Director's desk

Dear Reader,

It's exciting for me to be sharing with you our partners and friends the milestones that our organization has already hit this year. It's hard to imagine that we are well into the second quarter of 2024, I feel like the year has just begun. From starting the year with a new team to getting our sleeves rolled up and ready to engage with esteemed judicial officers in our upcoming judicial training on climate justice, Greenwatch continues to champion environmental advocacy and drive positive change.

In February, I reconnected with my amigos at the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) Annual General Meeting in Eugene Oregon. Eugene has very many fond memories for me as I spent 2011 and part of 2012 at the University of Oregon doing my Master of Laws in the environment and natural resources. ELAW AGMs are easily one of the highlights of my year because I get to meet colleagues from all around the world who are involved in similar work. During the few days of the AGM, we reconnected with old friends and colleagues, shared experiences, were inspired by the great work and success of our colleagues, and built new friendships and networks.

March started on a somber but grateful tone with the first memorial celebration of the founder of Greenwatch the late Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru my beloved father, I am so honored to have had him as a father, a mentor, and above all else as my friend. His infectious laughter, wisdom, and candor will always be sweet memories for many.

April is buzzing with preparations for the 6th Judicial Training on Climate Justice. This time the training is moving from the capital Kampala to the eastern part of Uganda in Mbale district. This is the first time we are having our climate justice training out of Kampala we are looking forward to the experience and the outcome of the training.

Happy reading!



Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa, Director, Greenwatch Uganda, with other delegates at the ELAW AGM in Eugene Oregon, February 2024.

Welcoming New Team Members

In February, Greenwatch added colour to the organization by welcoming a [new team](#) of three, their diverse backgrounds and fresh perspectives bolster our expertise and energize our efforts.

➡ Amanda Joy- Operations Manager & Administrator

Amanda brings a wealth of expertise to Greenwatch, excelling in enhancing partner and team experience, overseeing administration, and optimizing operations. Her deep-rooted passion for nature fuels her efforts in environmental conservation, alongside active involvement in initiatives promoting volunteerism, education, and empowering female entrepreneurs. Amanda holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Makerere University Business School, underscoring her commitment to excellence.

➡ Baryamujura Mahad - Legal Project Officer

Mahad is a seasoned lawyer whose passion for environmental law has grown significantly. Before joining Greenwatch, he gained valuable experience through clerkship and volunteering at [Kakuru and Co. Advocates](#), where he honed his skills in litigation and corporate practice. Mahad holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from Kampala International University and a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Center (Kampala).

➡ Nelson Byanyima – Communications Coordinator

Nelson is a seasoned environmental scientist and Communications Coordinator at Greenwatch Uganda, bringing over a decade of experience. With a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Makerere University Kampala, Nelson's career is defined by a passion for crafting effective communication strategies and creating digital content. Additionally, Nelson is the founder of [Green Lens International](#), a non-profit in Uganda dedicated to using visual content to advocate for environmental conservation, climate action, and clean energy.

<https://greenwatch.or.ug/team>



Greenwatch 2024 team: Nelson Byanyima, Amanda Joy, Samantha Atukunda, and Mahad Baryamujura (from left to right).

Workshops and Meetings

Greenwatch has been actively engaged in various workshops and meetings, both online and physically.

➡ Tilenga Oil Project

February 29th: Greenwatch participated in a "Let's Talk" roundtable meeting focused on the land acquisition process for the Tilenga oil project. During the meeting, TotalEnergies briefed attendees on the progress of compensation for project-affected persons. Greenwatch proposed the establishment of an independent committee to assist project-affected persons in navigating technicalities that may be delaying their compensation.

➡ NEMA Training Workshop

March 6th - 9th: Greenwatch participated in a training on effective environmental management organized by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). During the training, Greenwatch called for stronger cooperation between NEMA and civil society organizations in the pursuit of climate justice.

➡ Access and benefit sharing

- **April 4th:** Greenwatch participated in a breakfast meeting focused on draft regulations for access and benefit sharing (ABS) related to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Nagoya Protocol. Specifically, the meeting considered the National Environment (Access to Genetic Resources & Benefit Sharing) Regulations 2005 and The Guidelines for Accessing Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, 2007. Greenwatch reviewed the draft regulations and proposed amendments to ensure equitable benefit sharing for all stakeholders.

➡ Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations Network.

April 4th: Greenwatch also attended the Annual General Meeting of the Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations Network. The meeting focused on drafting, discussing, and approving a work plan for collaboration on advancing climate justice and other critical environmental issues.

➡ Least Developed Countries-LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience project

April 18th: Greenwatch participated in an information sharing, update, and dissemination meeting regarding the LIFE-AR project (Least Developed Countries-LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience project) under the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE). This program is designed to support LDCs in strengthening their approaches to climate resilience.

First memorial celebration of the life of Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru

On March 9th, Greenwatch joined the family and friends of our esteemed late founder, Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru, at his ancestral home in Rwebishuri, Mbarara. During the memorial, the family launched The Kenneth Kakuru Afforestation & Reforestation Initiative to keep his legacy alive through afforestation and reforestation projects starting in Uganda. 100 trees were planted in Kyamugorani, Mbarara where the late Justice Kakru grew up.



Greenwatch at 29.

On April 25th, Greenwatch celebrated 29 years of impactful environmental advocacy. Through engaging visual content such as infographics, we showcased the highlights of our journey, emphasizing successes in Public Interest Environmental Litigation, Capacity Building, and our enduring commitment to climate justice. From landmark legal cases challenging environmental degradation to initiatives in partnership with institutions like the Judicial Training Institute (JTI). Greenwatch's influence has been far-reaching.

Upcoming projects

➡ Sixth Judicial Training

Greenwatch is gearing up for the 6th judicial training on climate justice. The training is scheduled for 20th May 2024 in Mbale District, the theme this year is, enforcing environmental laws in the age of environmental crisis. We expect to train 30 judicial officers.

Climate Journalism Awards

Greenwatch is set to launch its inaugural Climate Journalism Awards in August this year, honoring exceptional journalists in Uganda who excel in reporting on climate-related matters. This initiative reflects our ongoing dedication to empowering local media and journalists, fostering in-depth coverage and awareness of crucial environmental issues impacting our region.

If we all did a little, we would do much