

THE CONSERVATION CHRONICLE

Environmental Sustainability News



**GREENWATCH
NEWSLETTER**

September
Edition 2024





Director's Message

Dear Greenwatch Partners,

As we navigate through the latter half of 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering commitment to our vision: "A Uganda where all citizens enjoy a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right." Your continued support of our work has been instrumental in advancing our mission to enhance public participation in the sustainable use, management and protection of the environment.

This edition of our newsletter highlights snippets of our recent activities, achievements, and ongoing projects. We are thrilled to share the progress we've made thus far.

Warm regards,
Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa
Director, Greenwatch



Greenwatch Rebranding

A New Era of Visibility and Impact

Since our founding in 1995, Greenwatch has consistently championed environmental advocacy, protection, conservation and litigation. For nearly three decades, our logo has represented our commitment to this cause. However, with evolving trends in branding and our growing role in environmental advocacy, we have decided it's time for a change.

We are excited to announce the launch of our new brand identity, which includes a redesigned logo and an updated color palette that reflects our mission more clearly. Our new logo features more prominent green tones representing nature, growth, and renewal. The design embodies our core values of advocacy, protection, conservation and legal action while highlighting our long-standing history of environmental stewardship. The new look symbolizes our forward-thinking approach as we continue to adapt to new challenges and opportunities in the environmental sector.

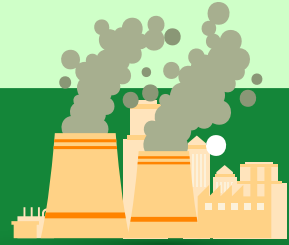


Old Logo



New Logo

9th May 2024 Launch of Air Quality Standard



As a stakeholder, Greenwatch was invited to the official launch of the National Environment (Air Quality Standards) Regulations of 2024 by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). This marks an important step in Uganda's efforts to combat air pollution and protect public health. The regulations, developed through extensive collaboration with key stakeholders, including the U.S. Embassy and Kampala Capital City Authority, set clear standards for indoor air quality in workplaces and enclosed environments.

These regulations impose strict emission limits on industrial facilities, vehicles, and other pollution sources, backed by a robust permit and compliance program. Industries that exceed emission standards will face severe penalties, including fines and imprisonment. Local governments will play a critical role in enforcing these regulations, as emphasized by Jennifer Kutesakwe, Senior Environment Inspector in charge of air quality.

Here is the link to the standards;
<https://shorturl.at/wgiYg>



Key officials, including NEMA Managing Director Dr. Barirega Akankwasah and Hon. Beatrice Anywar, Minister of State for Environment, during the launch of Uganda's National Air Quality Standards

17th May 2024 - First Board Members Meeting



Greenwatch held its inaugural meeting for newly appointed board of directors, bringing together seven distinguished members with diverse expertise. The Board is expected to greatly enhance Greenwatch's mission by providing strategic guidance across various areas, including finance, legal matters, communication and visibility.

Read more about our Board members here; <https://greenwatch.or.ug/board>



Greenwatch Board of Directors from left to right: Ariho Kamara, Victoria Nalule, Dennis Otatina, Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa, Anne Mbonye Tumwesigye, and Daphine Namatovu, during a recent board meeting at Latitude 0 Degrees Hotel, Kampala.

20th May 2024 - Sixth Judicial Training on Enforcing Environmental Laws



In partnership with the Judicial Training Institute, Greenwatch hosted its sixth annual judicial training on climate justice in Mbale, Eastern Uganda. Themed "Enforcing Environmental Laws in the Age of Climate Crisis," the event emphasized the judiciary's crucial role in addressing climate change and enforcing environmental laws. Hon. Justice Godfrey Namundi the Resident Judge of Mbale highlighted the importance of equitable decision-making and holding polluters accountable, especially in light of recent environmental disasters like the floods in Mbale.

The training featured in-depth presentations on environmental law and climate change, focusing on practical skills in adjudicating climate related disputes. The event concluded with a call for stronger collaboration among legal professionals to better protect Uganda's natural resources

Full article; <https://shorturl.at/nRUIId>.



Participants of our recent judicial training in Mbale, Uganda, gather for a group photo.

5th June 2024 - World Environment Day

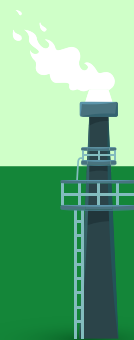


Greenwatch, in collaboration with various partners, celebrated World Environment Day at Explorer Ranch in Bwerenga, Entebbe. The event focused on planting over 1,000 indigenous tree species, contributing to land restoration and biodiversity conservation. The initiative honored the legacy of the late Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru, a prominent environmental rights advocate and founder of Greenwatch.



Greenwatch staff, from Left to Right, Amanda Joy, Mahad Baryamujura, and Nelson Byanyima plant a tree at Explorer Ranch in Bwerenga on World Environment Day

18th June 2024 - Second National Conference on Oil and Gas Development in Uganda

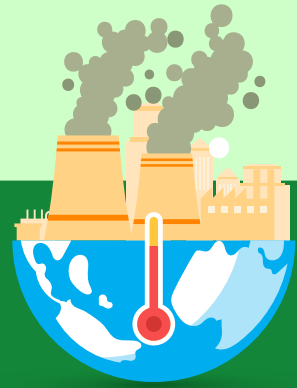


Greenwatch participated in the Second Annual Joint CSO Conference on Oil and Gas Development in Uganda. The conference focused on creating a unified roadmap for Uganda's energy transition, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among government entities, oil companies, and civil society to achieve a sustainable and socially equitable energy future.



*Panelists at the Second National Conference on Oil and Gas Development in Uganda.
Photo: Petroleum Authority of Uganda.*

International Climate Change Conference Makerere University



Mahad Baryamujura Greenwatch's legal project officer attended the International Climate Change Conference, held at Makerere University on 25th -26th July 2024. The conference brought together over 100 participants to discuss adapting global climate resilience strategies to the African context. The conference emphasized the need for tailored climate strategies that integrate local knowledge and foster interdisciplinary collaboration to address the climate challenges facing East Africa.



Participants the International Climate Change Conference, held at Makerere University on 25th -26th July 2024

Legal Advocacy



Greenwatch's Court Battle Over Forest Cover Loss

Greenwatch continues its legal battle against the Ugandan government for failing to curb the alarming loss of forest cover. The case, filed in January 2021, asserts that government entities have neglected their duty to protect Uganda's forests, resulting in a violation of the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment. The next hearing date is set for 12th November, 2024, with the inclusion of an Amicus Curiae from the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)

Greenwatch Empowers Young Lawyers on Climate Action, Litigation, and Justice



On August 15, 2024, Greenwatch, in partnership with the Uganda Law Society (ULS), hosted a training session for young lawyers. The event, themed "Igniting Passion for Climate Justice," aimed to prepare the next generation of legal professionals to tackle climate change through strategic legal action. The training emphasized the urgent need for legal professionals to advocate for stronger environmental protections, particularly in the wake of environmental disasters like the recent Kiteezi Landslide. The training provided young lawyers with practical tools and strategies to advance climate justice in Uganda and beyond.

More info; <https://shorturl.at/BXy99>



Participants pose for a photo at our recently concluded Young Lawyers Training at Mestil Hotel Kampala.

Creating a Global Network



Greenwatch's Director, Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa, recently participated in the International Environmental Law Clinicians Conference, organized by the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law from September 5th to 7th, 2024. The conference brought together experts, scholars, and practitioners from around the globe to address challenges, share research, and foster collaboration on key environmental issues.

Featuring five dynamic panel discussions, the conference emphasized the importance of collaboration between environmental law clinics and NGOs. Panelists shared their experiences, highlighting diverse approaches to achieving environmental justice, with a focus on building a comprehensive legal ecosystem to support these efforts.



Samantha making a presentation at the International Law Clinic Conference at the University of Maryland



Center for Transnational Environmental Accountability (CTEA),

Greenwatch's partner organization invited Samantha, to attend its Clinical Legal Fellows Project Workshop in Washington, D.C between 8th and 12 September. The workshop provided an opportunity to learn from the experiences of talented young lawyers participating in the fellowship program, who are working with civil society organizations across Africa. These fellows are supporting communities impacted by Chinese investment projects on the continent



Group photo at the Great Falls of the fellows CTEA's China Legal Fellowship - Photo credit: JingJing Zhang - CTEA

Additionally, Samantha was invited by the China Environmental Forum at the Wilson Center, another CTEA partner, to speak on a panel focused on the Role of China in Africa's Just Energy Transition. This panel explored China's influence in shaping Africa's energy future, particularly in the context of sustainability and equity.

See the full panel discussion here:

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/role-china-africas-just-energy-transition>



Group Photo of the panelists. Photo Credit – Jingjing Zhang - CTEA

