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Greenwatch Midyear Newsletter - 2026

A Message from the Executive Director

Greetings Reader,

The first half of 2026 has been a period of meaningful progress for Greenwatch. From launching our strategic plan (2026 - 2030), community marathons in Kasese to landmark legal training with the Uganda Law Society, field visits in Bududa to international academic recognition in Cape Town, our team has remained committed to advancing environmental justice, climate accountability, and legal empowerment across Uganda. This newsletter highlights the key work we have carried out on behalf communities we serve.

Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa, Executive Director.

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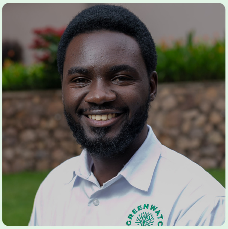
1. Welcoming New Team Members

Greenwatch is pleased to welcome new colleagues who joined the team in the first half of 2026, strengthening our capacity to deliver on our programs.



Alan Collins Mpewo
Staff Advocate / Project manager

Roy Nabagajja
Administrator.

Unity Niwandinda
Paralegal/ Research Assistant

Thomas Kaisuka
Comms, Media & IT Consultant

Arimpa Benerdatte
Assistant Communications and Media manager.

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2. Team Building and Strategic Planning Retreat (13th – 16th February 2026)

The Greenwatch team convened for a four-day Team-Building and Strategic Planning Retreat at KRAAL Cottages, Mbarara. The retreat brought together the full team to review Greenwatch's strategic direction, renew shared purpose, and strengthen collaboration across all departments.
Key focus areas included:

- Review and reaffirmation of Greenwatch’s vision, mission, and goal to achieve environment and climate Justice by 2030.
- Presentation and discussion of the strategic plan implementation matrix, with action points assigned across the legal, communications, and administrative teams.
- Commitment to translate Greenwatch’s core values: Collaboration, Teamwork, Professional Development, and Environment and Climate Justice into everyday actions.
- Team-building sessions that reinforced collective responsibility, accountability, and a shared commitment to growth and professional excellence.

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3. Honouring Our Founder — Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru Memorial Lecture (6th March 2026)

On the 6th of March 2026, we gathered at the Faculty of Law, Bishop Stuart

University in Mbarara to remember Hon. Justice Kakuru, to celebrate him, and to recommit to the work he believed in. The inaugural Kenneth Kakuru Memorial Lecture brought together judges, lawyers, academics, family, and friends.

Dr. Daniel Ruhweza delivered the keynote address, sparking a rich open discussion on the future of environmental law in Uganda. Voices from the Uganda Law Society, the Judiciary, Kabale University, and Justice Kakuru's own family added depth and warmth to the occasion. The day closed with a tree planting session led by the Kenneth Kakuru Earth Reboot Initiative ,a living tribute to a man who gave his life to the earth.

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Read Blog

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4. Run for the Rivers with the Kenneth Kakuru Earth Reboot Initiative (13th - 15th March 2026)

Greenwatch, in partnership with the Kenneth Kakuru Earth Reboot Initiative (KKERI), led the Run for the Rivers community marathon and riverbank restoration event in Kisinga Town Council, Bukonzo County, Kasese District along River Rwembya and River Nyamugasani. The event was held under the theme "Community Action for Riverbank Restoration and Environmental Conservation."

The marathon brought together local government leaders, community members, students, environmental activists, and civil society organizations to promote riverbank restoration and raise awareness on sustainable land use and environmental conservation. Participants ran a designated route passing through key riverbank sections targeted for restoration.

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Greenwatch and KKERI team members at the Kasese Run for the Rivers community marathon

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5. Community Engagement in Bududa District (24th - 26th April 2026)

In late April, Greenwatch undertook a field visit to Bududa District in partnership with ClientEarth. The visit combined community data collection with on-the-ground legal engagement.

- Our communications team collected field data and community perspectives to strengthen ongoing environmental justice work.
- Our legal team held an on-boarding and stakeholder meeting with local leaders, opening pathways for future community legal support initiatives like

teaching the locals their roles in climate and environmental justice beyond the court.

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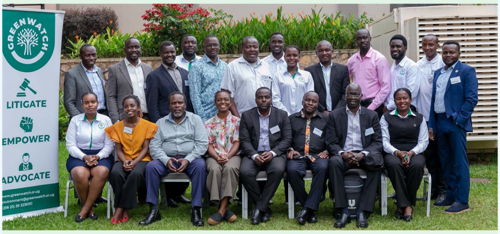
6. Science and the Law Workshop (21st May 2026)

Greenwatch convened the Science and the Law Workshop at Mestil Hotel, Kampala, under the theme "Strengthening Scientific Support in Strategic Climate Litigation." Facilitated by Greenwatch Executive Director Samantha Atukunda, Jameela Joy Reyes of the London School of Economics, and leading Ugandan scientists including Professor Shuaib Lwasa, Professor Patrick Byakagaba, Dr. Joshua Zake, and Amos Musheija, the workshop was aimed to equip lawyers and environmental scientists with practical tools for translating scientific data from attribution science into legally admissible evidence.



A group photo of the Greenwatch Team and the workshop participants

Read full article.

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7. Public Interest Climate Litigation Training (17th – 18th June 2026)

Greenwatch co-hosted a two-day CLE-accredited training on Climate and Environmental Justice with the Uganda Law Society at The Great outdoors - Kalanamu. The overall objective of the training was to strengthen the capacity of legal practitioners to advance environmental protection, climate justice, and human rights through Strategic Litigation and Community Engagement. Participants left with a deepened understanding of environmental justice and public interest litigation.

Read Full Recap

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