

# Annual Impact Report 2025



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# Abbreviations

**ACFODE** - Action for Development

**ACME** - Africa Centre for Media Excellence

**ACODE** - Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment

**AG** - Attorney General

**AMA** - African Media Agency

**Bcf** - Billion cubic feet

**CIEL** - Centre for International Environmental Law

**CLE** - Continuing Legal Education

**CSCO** - Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas

**CSO** - Civil Society Organisation

**EACOP** - East African Crude Oil Pipeline

**EIA** - Environmental Impact Assessment

**ELAW** - Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide

**FIDH** - International Federation for Human Rights

**FIDA-U** - Uganda Association of Women Lawyers

**GHG** - Greenhouse Gas

**GMP** - Global Methane Pledge

**IEA** - International Energy Agency

**LDAR** - Leak Detection and Repair

**MEMD** - Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development

**MMRV / MRV** - Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

**MoU** - Memorandum of Understanding

**NAPE** - National Association of Professional Environmentalists

**NEMA** - National Environment Management Authority

**NFA** - Uganda Association of Women Lawyers

**NGO** - Non-Governmental Organisation

**NRGI** - Natural Resource Governance Institute

**PAU** - Petroleum Authority of Uganda

**RAJEEL** - Rafiki Justice and Environmental Organization

**SINA** - Social Innovation Academy

**TCI** - True Cost Initiative

**UCU** - Uganda Christian University

**UWA** - Uganda Wildlife Authority

**ULC** - Uganda Law Council

**ULS** - Uganda Law Society

**UNDP** - United Nations Development Programme

**UNFCCC** - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**UNJA** - Uganda National Journalism Awards

**UWONET** - Uganda Women's Network

**WEHRDS** - Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders

**WWF** - World Wide Fund for Nature



Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa

## Director's Executive Summary

A Year of Impact: Advocacy, Action, and Accountability in 2025

2025 was a defining year for Greenwatch, marked by bold strides in our mission to defend Uganda's citizen's right to a clean and healthy environment. Guided by our core pillars of **Advocacy, Empowerment and Litigation**, we deepened our influence, strengthened vital partnerships, and delivered tangible progress across the country's most pressing environmental challenges.

We served as a critical voice for justice—engaging at the highest levels to shape stronger forestry and wildlife laws, monitor the oil and gas sector, and champion inclusive climate action. Our presence in national and international forums cemented our role as a thought leader, driving conversations that put environmental governance and civic participation at the forefront of Uganda's development agenda.

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On the ground, our strategic litigation, community programs and dialogues fought back against deforestation, pushed for accountability on plastic pollution, and defended civic freedoms. We stood with communities facing the harsh realities of a changing climate, ensuring their voices were not just heard but acted upon.

This report captures a year of resilience and results: the progress in our cases, the policies influenced, the partnerships forged, and the communities empowered. It also reflects honestly on lessons learned and emerging challenges—from shrinking civic space to evolving environmental threats.

As we look ahead, our resolve is stronger than ever. We remain committed to a sustainable Uganda, where the law protects both people and planet, and where every citizen has the power to safeguard the environment for generations to come.

***This is more than a report—it's a record of progress, a testament to collaboration, and a blueprint for the future of environmental justice in Uganda.***

Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa

Executive Director

**Greenwatch**

## Who We Are

Greenwatch, established in 1995, is an environmental law advocacy organization committed to ensuring a clean and healthy environment for all Ugandans. Registered as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) and incorporated as a company limited by guarantee with the Uganda Registration Service Bureau, Greenwatch has a long-standing dedication to environmental protection and justice.



Greenwatch's mandate is to protect and enforce the right to a clean and healthy environment through public participation. Furthermore, it is committed to contributing to the overarching goal of achieving environment and climate justice.

Our foundation is Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which

guarantees access to information, the right to public participation, and effective access to justice in environmental matters. We believe a thriving planet is a collective responsibility, and we harness the power of the law to turn this principle into tangible action and lasting justice.

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Through informed advocacy, meaningful community empowerment and strategic litigation we confront environmental injustice at its roots challenging deforestation, pollution, climate negligence, and the silencing of civic voices. We don't just witness environmental harm; we contest it in courtrooms, shape it in policy halls, and resist it alongside communities.



### Mission

To protect and enforce the right to a clean and healthy environment through public participation.



### Core Values

Greenwatch is committed to upholding the following core values in all its operations:

- **Collaboration** – Greenwatch is committed to partnering and collaborating with other organizations, government bodies, communities, and schools to ensure environmental protection.
- **Teamwork** – Greenwatch management and staff are committed to working together to achieve the intended results.
- **Professional development** – Greenwatch is committed to empowering its staff to expand their knowledge and ensure skills development.
- **Environment and Climate Justice** – Greenwatch is committed to ensuring protection and enforcement of the right to a clean and healthy environment

## Enhancing Emergency Preparedness

This national workshop brought together government agencies, civil society groups, oil and gas representatives and community advocates to assess Uganda's readiness for possible oil-spill incidents along the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). Discussions focused on the need for stronger preparedness plans, clear reporting systems and community involvement. Participants reviewed current national response frameworks and highlighted gaps in coordination, data and public awareness. Many noted that communities living along the pipeline remain the first to face risk, yet they rarely have access to oil-spill information or emergency procedures. Strengthening their participation was identified as one of the most important steps toward effective spill management.



**Abdun Bwanadi** (Climate Legal Fellow)

Abdun Bwanadi, led conversations on legal accountability and environmental rights. He emphasised that oil development must be matched with

strong safeguards that protect people and ecosystems. He also stressed the need for transparent liability procedures so that, in the event of a spill, responsible parties are held to account and affected communities receive prompt support, remediation and compensation.

The workshop also noted gaps in spill-response planning and public disclosure.

Stakeholders called for wider access to pipeline risk maps, early-warning systems and clear roles for districts and community first responders. Participants recommended regular drills, locally trained response teams and updated national guidelines that reflect the scale of EACOP's route across sensitive ecosystems.

The meeting ended with a shared commitment to strengthen coordination between government, operators and civil society. It also reinforced Greenwatch's role in pushing for community-centred environmental protection and legal transparency as Uganda enters a new phase of oil development.



## Technical Review of the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act



The Uganda Law Reform Commission brought together government agencies, civil society organisations, forestry officials and local leaders to review the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act. The meeting came at a time when Uganda's forests continue to face growing pressure from illegal logging, land conversion and weak enforcement. The consultation provided space for partners to reflect on how well the law is working and what needs to be improved. Participants noted that although the Act provides strong guidance on paper, many of its protections fail in practice because institutions often overlap, enforcement is slow and communities receive little support when reporting forest crimes. Greenwatch contributed legal insights on modernising forest governance. The team highlighted the need for stronger penalties for illegal logging, clearer roles between the National Forestry Authority and district forestry services, and better coordination across agencies. Greenwatch also stressed that forests are part of Uganda's natural heritage and are held in trust for all citizens, which means the State must protect them with consistency and care.

# River Rwembya Restoration Campaign

Together with Uganda Law Society and the Kenneth Kakuru Earth Reboot Initiative, Greenwatch supported restoration efforts along River Rwembya in Kasese District. The Kisinga community has experienced dreadful floods as a result of torrential rains which have weakened the riverbanks, widened the water channel and increased the danger faced by the communities who depend on it. Read the report [HERE](#)



Community members and the Greenwatch team planting trees along River Rwembya.

## Climate Action Summit

On World Earth Day 2025, Greenwatch participated in the Climate Action Summit at the Social Innovation Academy (SINA) in Mpigi, joining youth innovators, climate advocates, policymakers, and researchers. The event, organized by Youth Challenge International's HerStart Programme and Jangu International/SINA in collaboration with partners like Einstein Rising, Gejja Women Foundation and Enabel, centered on the theme "Empowering Rural Innovators for Climate Action in Uganda." It aimed to tackle Uganda's pressing climate challenges, including prolonged droughts, floods, and unpredictable rainfall, by providing a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and community-level climate innovation. Representing Greenwatch, Judith Nansubuga discussed climate governance, policy reform, and the role of youth participation, highlighting initiatives in environmental rights advocacy, climate education, and public-interest litigation. Nansubuga stressed the significance of legal empowerment and the need for stronger enforcement of environmental laws to foster youth-led efforts in climate adaptation and mitigation.



## The Green Zone Launch



As part of Earth Day celebrations, Green Lens launched the Green Zone event at Yujo Izakaya in Kampala. Under the theme "Our Power, Our Planet," this initiative brought together young people, environmental organizations, creatives, policymakers, and green-tech innovators to exchange simple, practical, and affordable strategies for environmental protection.

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The event featured a vibrant mix of art, clean-energy demonstrations, poetry, music, and community dialogues, allowing participants to engage with local inventors who showcased solutions aimed at reducing waste, indoor air pollution, and deforestation. Greenwatch utilized this platform to emphasize the importance of storytelling in environmental education, reaching over 1000 people. Additionally, Greenwatch supported restoration efforts along River Rwerembya in Kasese District. The Kisinga community has been impacted by climate justice and empower individuals to make informed choices for a healthier planet.



Gallery from the Launch of the Green Zone Launch as we celebrated Earth Day 2025 in style!

## Petroleum Project Monitoring

As Uganda moves closer to commercial oil production, the need for strong environmental and social oversight in the Albertine Graben has become increasingly important. Communities along the oil corridor continue to raise concerns about land acquisition, compensation, waste management and the long-term effects of petroleum activities on their livelihoods. As a member of the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO) partners, Greenwatch joined the field monitoring mission across key petroleum sites in Hoima, Kikuube and Buliisa. The visit focused on evaluating how operators are implementing environmental safeguards, communities are being engaged and whether project activities align with Uganda's environmental laws and standards. It also provided an opportunity to hear directly from Project Affected Persons (PAPS) and understand the everyday realities of living near fast-growing petroleum infrastructure.



**Greenwatch's Legal Project Officer, Judith Nansubuga, during petroleum monitoring in the Albertine Graben.**

## International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) 2025 Annual Meeting

Greenwatch participated in the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) annual meeting in Washington D.C., a global convening that brings together organisations working to strengthen corporate transparency, human rights protection and environmental accountability. The meeting created space for partners from different regions to reflect on how corporations can be held to higher standards, especially in countries where communities face environmental harm linked to large projects. Greenwatch shared Uganda's experiences with extractive industries, environmental degradation and community displacement, highlighting the gaps that still exist in access to justice and information. The discussion emphasized that strong corporate accountability frameworks are essential as Uganda enters a new phase of oil and gas development. Discussions also explored global trends in environmental due diligence, corporate disclosure, climate risk reporting and the role civil society plays in ensuring that development projects respect human rights.



**Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa at the ICAR Roundtable in Washington D.C**

## Mining Regulations Workshop

Greenwatch participated in a critical Mining Regulations Workshop in Kampala, co-hosted with sector partners to analyze Uganda's regulatory framework and assess risks associated with major projects such as Tilenga and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). Following the policy review, our team conducted a field monitoring visit to project-affected areas in Hoima and Buliisa to evaluate compliance with Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) requirements. While we observed tangible improvements in onsite sanitation, worker safety gear, and spill prevention, significant concerns persist. These include ongoing ecosystem degradation, inadequate waste management systems, restricted community access to project information,

habitat loss, and unresolved land acquisition grievances. Our Legal Project Officer, Judith Nansubuga, contributed substantively to the resulting Civil Society Coalition position paper, advocating for actionable measures such as enhanced dust and erosion controls, robust flood management plans, the public display of ESIA certificates, ecological restoration, and effective livelihood restoration programs. This integrated approach—combining policy advocacy with ground-level monitoring—remains essential to mitigating the long-term impacts of extractive industries, safeguarding community well-being, and enforcing greater accountability within Uganda's developing oil and gas sector.



Judith Nansubuga representing Greenwatch at the Mining Regulations Workshop.



## UNDP Meeting on Women Environmental Defenders



In a significant step to bolster the protection of women on the frontlines of environmental justice, Greenwatch participated in a national dialogue on Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders (WEHRDs). Convened by ACFODE and FIDA-U with support from UNDP, the forum assembled over 40 defenders, civil society representatives, journalists, and community leaders. The dialogue was inaugurated by Lady Justice Susan Okalanyi, who underscored that safeguarding the environment is a fundamental human

rights obligation and that the safety of women defenders is paramount. Representing Greenwatch, Legal Project Officer Judith Nansubuga facilitated a critical session on legal protection mechanisms, training participants on systematic violation documentation, threat reporting protocols, and the strategic use of constitutional and environmental laws to seek redress. She advocated for the strengthening of defender networks to foster mutual support.

Read more

**HERE**



# Wildlife Management Policy Review Workshop

Greenwatch participated in the Wildlife Management Policy Review Workshop, a strategic forum organized by UBF and WWF and attended by government bodies including the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the Ministry of Tourism, research institutions, and civil society organizations. The workshop addressed mounting pressures on Uganda's biodiversity from habitat fragmentation, climate change, human-wildlife conflict, and extractive industry development. Representing Greenwatch, Legal Project Officer Judith Nansubuga integrated essential legal and human-rights dimensions into the dialogue, framing wildlife as both a cornerstone of national identity and a public trust that necessitates active community inclusion and benefit-sharing.

Discussions revealed critical systemic challenges, including escalating human-wildlife conflict, delayed compensation for losses, persistent habitat degradation, inadequate support for frontline rangers, and the emergence of zoonotic diseases. Participants also exchanged community-led solutions, such as effective wildlife scout programs and local habitat restoration initiatives. Consensus emerged on several priority action areas: integrating robust spatial planning for infrastructure near protected areas, developing stronger habitat restoration guidelines, enhancing inter-agency coordination, securing increased funding for community conservation and scientific research, and crafting policies that explicitly link biodiversity protection with climate resilience and human well-being.

For Greenwatch, the workshop served as a pivotal platform to champion a rights-based framework for wildlife management. Our advocacy focused on ensuring that future policy not only safeguards ecological integrity but also legally secures the rights and livelihoods of communities living in proximity

to wildlife, thereby aligning conservation objectives with environmental justice.



## Strengthening Public Discourse: Climate and Media Workshop



In pursuit of enhancing informed public dialogue on environmental issues, Greenwatch participated in the "Amplifying Climate Voices" Climate and Media Workshop at Alliance Française Kampala. This strategic forum convened journalists, policymakers, and civil society organizations with the objective of strengthening the quality and impact of climate reporting across Uganda. The dialogue centered on the critical need for accurate scientific data and deeper collaboration between the media and environmental experts, a necessity underscored by Uganda's acute vulnerability to climate impacts—including rising temperatures, intensified floods and droughts, landslides, and threats to rain-fed agriculture.

The workshop provided practical training for media professionals from radio, television, online, and community outlets, focusing on translating complex climate science into accessible information, contextualizing Uganda's national and international legal commitments, and framing climate data through compelling, human-centered storytelling. Participants candidly addressed sector-wide challenges, such as limited access to localized data, the pressure of rapid news cycles, and the difficulty of securing space for environmental stories amidst dominant political coverage.

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A core achievement of the event was the facilitation of direct connections between journalists and a network of scientists, legal experts, and CSO representatives, including Greenwatch. This bridge-building is designed to foster ongoing collaboration, improve reporting accuracy, and streamline access to credible information. The workshop concluded with participants expressing increased confidence and equipped with concrete tools to more effectively report on climate impacts, community adaptation strategies, and underlying environmental injustices, thereby amplifying essential voices in the national climate conversation.



## Advocating for Regulatory Clarity: Methane Emissions Validation Workshop

On 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Greenwatch contributed its legal expertise to a critical validation workshop for Uganda's methane-emissions abatement study. The meeting brought together the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE), the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), and relevant government agencies. The NRGI-commissioned draft study, presented by lead researcher Dr. Michael S. Mbogga, revealed a significant regulatory void: Uganda currently lacks specific guidelines for managing methane emissions. This gap is particularly critical given the country's substantial natural gas reserves—estimated at 605 billion cubic feet, 259 billion cubic feet of which is gas associated with oil extraction—and methane's potent global warming potential, which is over 80 times that of carbon dioxide over a 20-year period.



The dialogue confirmed Uganda's stated commitments to international initiatives, including the Global Methane Pledge and the Zero Routine Flaring by 2030 Initiative. However, participants identified systemic barriers to achieving these goals, including weak enforcement mechanisms, regulatory fragmentation across agencies, overlapping mandates, and a fundamental lack of reliable emissions data. The workshop concluded with a consensus on a suite of targeted recommendations. These include the urgent development of methane-specific regulations, the establishment of a coordinated inter-agency oversight body, the introduction of a mix of fiscal incentives and penalties for operators, the implementation of robust Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems, and the formal integration of oil and gas sector emissions into Uganda's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

For Greenwatch, this workshop was a vital platform to advocate for the immediate translation of these technical findings into binding legal and policy frameworks. Our involvement underscored the necessity of preemptive, strong regulation to mitigate the climate impact of the developing extractive sector and hold both state and corporate actors accountable.

Read more



## Building Media Partnerships: Launch of the 2026 Uganda National Journalism Awards

On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Greenwatch attended the African Centre for Media Excellence (ACME) corporate cocktail at the Fairway Boutique Hotel, marking the official launch of the 2026 Uganda National Journalism Awards (UNJA). The event convened journalists, civil society organizations, sponsors, and development partners united by a shared commitment to advancing public-interest journalism in Uganda.

ACME, which has administered the prestigious UNJA awards since 2014, utilizes the platform to recognize exemplary reporting that elucidates complex public affairs, exposes abuses of power, and empowers citizens with information. The occasion served to celebrate a decade of ACME's capacity-building work, honour past award winners, and formally open the submissions cycle for the 2027 awards. In her remarks, the ACME Chairperson underscored the indispensable role of credible, fact-based journalism in upholding democracy, ensuring public accountability, and safeguarding fundamental rights—explicitly including the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment.

For Greenwatch, strategic engagement at this high-profile forum was a key step in fortifying essential alliances with the media sector. We recognize that robust, independent journalism is a powerful force for environmental accountability. By translating complex legal and scientific information into accessible stories, amplifying the voices of affected communities, and scrutinizing the actions of both state and corporate actors, a strong media ecosystem acts as a critical partner in our mission to enforce environmental laws and promote justice.

## Global Advocacy at COP30: Advancing Community-Centred Climate Justice

In a significant moment of international advocacy, Greenwatch participated in the global climate dialogue at the 30th Conference of the Parties (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. Engaging in dedicated sessions on Climate Justice Day, Greenwatch contributed to vital exchanges on community-led climate resilience and legal accountability frameworks.

A key intervention occurred during a panel on litigation and ecosystem protection, where Greenwatch presented the landmark Bududa landslide cases to a global audience. This presentation powerfully illustrated how climate-induced disasters disproportionately impact frontline communities in Uganda, serving as a concrete example of the loss and damage being experienced in vulnerable regions. The dialogues across the day consistently emphasized critical themes of corporate and state accountability, a just and equitable energy transition, the operationalization of loss and damage finance, and the indispensable leadership of local communities in designing climate solutions.

Participation in this premier global forum enabled Greenwatch to forge and strengthen alliances with international movements, lawyers, and advocates. The experience reaffirmed the critical power of transnational collaboration and has further solidified our organizational resolve. It reinforced our core commitment to ensuring that the voices, knowledge, and rights of those most affected by the climate crisis remain central to climate policy and justice efforts, both within Uganda and on the world stage. Read More

[HERE](#) 



**Greenwatch's representative Abdun Bwanadi was honoured to be part of the global conversation at COP 30**



## Forging a Legal Front: The Pre-Launch of Uganda's Environmental Lawyers Association

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In a landmark initiative to consolidate and empower the nation's legal capacity for environmental protection, Greenwatch convened a pivotal pre-launch gathering for the nascent Environmental Lawyers Association on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The event assembled a dedicated cohort of young legal professionals united by a shared commitment to advancing environmental justice, climate action, and sustainable governance.

The gathering served as a strategic forum to shape the

association's foundational agenda, focusing on critical areas including environmental governance, climate litigation pathways, biodiversity law, and the protection of community rights. Keynotes were delivered by the association's leadership: Chairperson Howard Mwesigwa, joining virtually from the University of Edinburgh, stressed the urgent, transformative role of law in safeguarding both ecosystems and vulnerable communities. Vice Chairperson Judith Nansubuga underscored the imperative of grassroots engagement and collaborative

advocacy to build a robust national network. General Secretary Faith Nadweny presented the operational framework and actionable initiatives, while Programs & Advocacy Lead Raymond previewed a 2026 agenda featuring specialized training, trial advocacy workshops, and strategic litigation projects.

A core thematic discussion explored the application of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as a tool to enhance corporate accountability in Uganda's extractive and industrial sectors. Demonstrating their ambition, participants collectively endorsed a goal to expand the association's membership to at least 500 legal practitioners by the end of 2026. This pre-launch marks a significant institutional advancement in Uganda's environmental movement, establishing a central hub for legal expertise. It strategically positions the association to drive leadership development, pursue precedent-setting litigation, and amplify community-led advocacy throughout the coming year and beyond.



**Pictures from the Pre-Launch of the Uganda's Environmental Lawyers Association**

## Building for the Future: The 2026–2030 Strategic Plan

In a landmark initiative for our organization's future, Greenwatch successfully concluded an inclusive and rigorous process to develop our Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 in December 2025. This foundational exercise was intentionally designed to strengthen our governance structures, crystallize our theory of change, and conduct a comprehensive institutional review. The goal was to ensure absolute alignment between our core vision, mission, and values and the operational strategies that drive our work. In a collaborative effort that involved the entire team, we refined and unified our focus into three interconnected thematic pillars: **Advocacy, Empowerment, and Litigation**. The development process itself served as a powerful learning and team-bonding experience, solidifying our shared commitment to a focused, ambitious, and impact-driven path for the next five years. This new strategic blueprint positions Greenwatch to pursue environmental justice with greater clarity, cohesion, and resilience.



## Forging Academic-NGO Partnerships: The Global Law Clinic Network Workshop

To bridge the gap between legal education and practical environmental advocacy, Greenwatch participated in a pioneering Law Clinic–NGO Network Workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted by the Centre for Transnational Environmental Accountability (CTEA) and the University of Nairobi Faculty of Law. The forum convened professors from universities across Africa, Asia, South America, North America, and Europe, alongside leaders from environmental NGOs, to advance clinical legal education with a specific focus on environmental justice.

The central objective was to explore the creation of a global clinic-NGO network. This collaborative model aims to enhance the efficiency and impact of both academia and civil society by integrating law students into real-world environmental cases. Such involvement provides students with invaluable experiential learning and sharpens their trial advocacy skills, while simultaneously bolstering the legal capacity of partner NGOs. Representing Greenwatch, our Executive Director contributed the NGO perspective, sharing insights on the practical needs, sustainable funding models, and effective frameworks for collaboration between universities and environmental organizations. This engagement marks a significant step toward building a transnational alliance that cultivates the next generation of environmental lawyers and amplifies strategic litigation efforts worldwide.



**Samantha Atukunda Kakuru Mwesigwa at the  
The Global Law Clinic Network Workshop**



Update on Greenwatch's litigation work can be found **HERE** 



**Greenwatch V Attorney General, NFA, and Nema**



**Nisi Mbabazi & 4 Others V Attorney General**



**Tsama Williams & 47 Others V Attorney General and 2 Others**



# Synthesis of Impact, Outcomes, and Strategic Challenges (2025)

## Key Achievements and Outcomes

Through informed advocacy, meaningful community empowerment and strategic litigation we confront environmental injustice at its roots challenging deforestation, pollution, climate negligence, and the silencing of civic voices. We don't just witness environmental harm; we contest it in courtrooms, shape it in policy halls, and resist it alongside communities.

- **Strengthened Multi-Sectoral Partnerships:** We solidified collaborative frameworks with government agencies, media institutions, and academia, enhancing the inclusivity and legitimacy of policy dialogue and implementation.
- **Elevated Advocacy and Public Awareness:** Our work gained increased visibility across key environmental sectors. Strategic media collaborations and creative public engagements significantly raised awareness of environmental rights and injustices among broader audiences.
- **Enhanced Legal and Policy Frameworks:** Through sustained advocacy, we successfully integrated critical civil-society recommendations into draft laws and national strategies, particularly in areas of biodiversity conservation, extractive-sector governance, and climate action.
- **Empowered Communities and Actors:** We facilitated greater community participation in environmental decision-making and built the legal capacity of national and local actors through joint training programs, directly empowering those on the frontlines.
- **Fostered Rights-Based Integration:** Our efforts strengthened the essential linkages between gender equality, human rights, and environmental policy, ensuring a more holistic approach to justice.

- **Expanded Regional Collaboration:** We initiated and strengthened cross-border collaborations, enabling vital information exchange on environmental litigation and corporate accountability across the region.

These outcomes underscore a core tenet of our philosophy: meaningful environmental justice is only achievable through strong, sustained partnerships built on mutual respect and a shared vision for a sustainable future.

### Strategic Challenges

Our work in 2025 was conducted within a complex operational landscape marked by persistent structural and systemic challenges:

- **Information Asymmetry:** Limited public access to comprehensive environmental data and government information continued to hinder evidence-based advocacy and community monitoring.
- **Institutional and Legal Gaps:** Weak enforcement of existing environmental laws, coupled with often-delayed judicial processes, remains a significant barrier to accountability and deterrence.
- **Operational Constraints:** Funding volatility and uncertainty posed challenges to the sustainability and long-term planning of critical programs.
- **Shrinking Civic Space:** We navigated a climate of political interference and increasing pressure on civic actors, which directly impacts the safety and operational freedom of environmental defenders.
- **Compounding Crises:** The increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters simultaneously exacerbated community vulnerabilities and disrupted the implementation of our field programs.
- **Inclusive Participation Gaps:** Despite efforts, the meaningful participation of women and youth in high-level policy decision-making processes remained limited, indicating a need for more targeted empowerment strategies.



### Lessons Learned & Forward Path

The year's engagements reaffirmed that sustained, principled dialogue and coalition-building are indispensable for driving systemic change. The challenges identified above do not represent obstacles but rather clarify our strategic priorities for the coming years. They reinforce our commitment to:

- **Investing in Data and Evidence:** Prioritizing community-led monitoring and legal tools to compel transparency.
- **Fortifying Partnerships:** Deepening alliances across sectors to enhance resilience against political and funding pressures.
- **Advocating for Institutional Reform:** Focusing advocacy on the reform of enforcement mechanisms and judicial processes.
- **Centering Frontline Leadership:** Redoubling efforts to ensure women, youth, and affected communities are not just participants but leaders in the environmental justice movement.



### Looking Ahead to 2026: A Year of Strategic Action

The year 2026 will be a pivotal chapter for Greenwatch, marked by the launch of our new strategic plan. This roadmap will provide clear direction for the year ahead while projecting our vision for the next five years, ensuring focused and impactful work. We will formally communicate the plan's launch date early in the new year and share it comprehensively with our partners, stakeholders, and well-wishers.

A cornerstone of our 2026 initiatives will be the launch of the **Greenwatch Environmental Law Clinic and Legal Aid Center**. This dual-purpose center will provide essential legal aid services to communities while fostering the next generation of advocates through a hands-on clinical education program.

Recognizing the power of narrative, we are proud to partner with the Africa Center for Media Excellence on a specialized one-month training program for journalists passionate about **telling climate stories**. Our goal is to elevate community-centered narratives that amplify the voices of those on the frontlines of environmental change.

Furthermore, we will establish the **Association of Lawyers for the Environment and Climate Justice**. This dedicated network will focus on public interest litigation, community empowerment, and nurturing a new generation of environmental lawyers.

Underpinning all these efforts is our unwavering commitment: to **advocate, empower**, and litigate for environmental justice. We move forward with the collective belief that if we all do a little, we would do much.



*If we all did a little, we would do much*



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