



Media Advisory

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Uganda Youth File Climate Change Lawsuit

WHAT: On September 20, 2012, Ugandan environmental and human rights NGO Greenwatch filed an Atmospheric Trust Litigation (ATL) lawsuit against the Uganda government on behalf of local youth plaintiffs in the High Court of Uganda at Kampala. The complaint invokes a governmental public trust duty under Articles 39 and 237 of the Uganda Constitution to protect the country's atmospheric resources from climate change for the benefit of current and future generations. Greenwatch and their youth plaintiffs seek court orders to compel Ugandan agencies to enforce the terms of international climate treaties, conduct a carbon accounting, develop a climate change mitigation plan in accordance with the best science, and protect Ugandan children from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Greenwatch Executive Director Kenneth Kakuru is an accomplished environmental attorney and activist. Kakuru and Greenwatch recently [won a big victory](#) against the lack of regulation of plastic bags in Uganda, which was declared a danger to the constitutional right to Ugandan citizens to a healthy environment. Following a ten-year legal battle, these plastic bags must now be regulated by court order.

The ATL lawsuit filed on September 20 invokes this same constitutional right in the context of climate change. The complaint describes many of the environmental pressures on Uganda already exacerbated by anthropogenic climate change and likely to get much worse according to scientific predictions, such as prolonged drought, floods, hurricanes, and crop losses. The complaint acknowledges the scale and difficulty of the problem, noting that "Global warming is caused by poverty, economic growth, and population. Dealing with it will be impossible but ignoring it will be worse."

**WHEN/
WHERE:** High Court of Uganda at Kampala

WHY: Greenwatch is working in coordination with Our Children's Trust, an Oregon-based non-profit leading the TRUST Campaign to help youth across the U.S. and internationally compel meaningful government action on climate change. Youth plaintiffs in Uganda, like those in the U.S., demand that their government take action to protect the atmosphere and natural resources for their future. The threat of climate crisis disproportionately affects the world's youth and future generations, but it is the current generation of leaders that must take effective action to avoid irreversible calamities later.

WHO: Spokespeople available for comment or interview are:

- Kenneth Kakuru, Executive Director, Greenwatch, Attorney for the Plaintiffs
- Julia Olson, Executive Director, Our Children's Trust

**NOTES
TO THE
EDITOR:**

To watch *Stories of TRUST: Calling for Climate Recovery*, the 10-part series of short documentaries highlighting the stories of the U.S. youth plaintiffs, please visit www.ourchildrenstrust.org.

www.Greenwatch.or.ug
www.OurChildrensTrust.org
www.WITNESS.org