



ELAW advocate

SUMMER 2023

1412 Pearl Street, Eugene, Oregon 97401 | (541) 687-8454 | elawus@elaw.org | www.elaw.org

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"Sharing experiences with ELAW partners breathes new life into my work."

Ahmed Elseidi

ELAW helps communities speak out for clean air, clean water, and a healthy planet. We are a global alliance of attorneys, scientists, and other advocates collaborating across borders to promote grassroots efforts to build a sustainable, just future.

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The ELAW Fellows Program Grows Advocates Arrive from Brazil, Senegal, and Egypt



Dr. Fatima Diallo at Cape Perpetua, Oregon.

Early in 2020, the pandemic closed our in-person ELAW Fellows Program. We reopened in March 2022 and are thriving. We are hearing from more and more advocates around the world who want to travel to Eugene for an ELAW Fellowship.

Last year, we hosted five Fellows from **Ukraine, Brazil, Cameroon, and Congo**. So far this year we have hosted six Fellows from **Brazil, Senegal, and Egypt**, with plans to host Fellows from **Guinea and Peru** this summer and fall. Advocates from **Colombia, Liberia, Mexico, Uganda, Poland**, and more have all requested ELAW Fellowships.

ELAW designs each Fellowship to meet the Fellow's needs. We provide one-on-one training with ELAW's Law, Science, Defending Defenders, and Development Teams, and reach out to other experts in the U.S. and around the world to help ELAW Fellows meet their

training objectives. We arrange meetings with judges and tours of U.S. courthouses. We conduct field trips to the Oregon Coast, Cascade Mountains, and other natural areas so that Fellows can learn how we protect wild places here in the U.S.

Since launching the ELAW Fellows Program in 1991, we have hosted more than 200 environmental professionals from all over the world. We enjoy hosting Fellows and learning from them. Our Fellows are committed grassroots advocates and respected leaders who have gone on to do outstanding work. Seven ELAW Fellows later won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, including 2016 Goldman Prize winner Zuzana Čaputová. Ms. Čaputová was an ELAW Fellow in 2007 and 2017, and elected President of Slovakia in 2019.

Please enjoy the profiles of this year's Fellows.



Ahmed Elseidi at Skinner Butte Park, Eugene.

Ahmed Elseidi

Cairo, Egypt

April 1 – June 14, 2023

Ahmed is the only public interest environmental lawyer in Egypt. He has worked with ELAW since 2020 to protect communities from polluting industries, advance a single-use plastic ban, and strengthen climate protection. He has many cases pending in Egypt's courts.

"After law school, I volunteered at the Habi Center for Environmental Rights and launched their litigation program," says Ahmed. The Center's founder, Mohamed Nagi, participated in the 2015 ELAW Annual Meeting and was ELAW's first connection in Egypt. Nagi died in 2018 and the Center closed, but Ahmed continued his environmental work pro bono at his private law firm.

(CONTINUED ON Pg.2)

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Human Geography,
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SUMMER 2023

The ELAW Fellows Program Grows

Ahmed (CONTINUED)

"There are very few lawyers in Arab countries who focus on environmental rights, because most of our law schools do not have environmental law classes," says Ahmed, who would like to help launch Egypt's first environmental law program.

While in Eugene, Ahmed collaborated with the ELAW Team on protecting communities from polluting cement plants, contaminated water, the plastic scourge, and the changing climate.

Near the city of Alexandria, Ahmed is working to clean up Lake Mariout, a brackish lake that feeds into the Mediterranean Sea via the El-Mex pumping station in the northwest delta of the Nile River. The pumping station is part of the wastewater disposal system in Egypt. Overflow waters from Lake Mariout also feed into the Mediterranean through the El-Mex Bay, which is lined with many factories.

"All industrial untreated wastewater goes to the sea through this lake," says Ahmed. Pollutants from pesticides and fertilizers in agricultural runoff, as well as wastewater from cement factories, petrochemical facilities, hospitals, gas stations, homes, and more contaminate the lake and, consequently, the Mediterranean Sea.

"It's a persistent threat to public health and there has been a severe decline in catch of sea bass and bream, a critical source of income for local communities," says Ahmed.

Ahmed is also working to clean up polluting cement factories. The Swiss-owned Lafarge-Holcim operation on the Gulf of Suez uses a highly polluting coal-fired kiln. Ahmed says the company frequently violates the conditions of its permits. "Why is our environmental agency renewing their permit?" he asks. A second cement plant in Alexandria is located 10 meters from a neighborhood, emitting lots of heat and polluting the air. "Everyone in the district is suffering, and the judges can see this because the court is nearby!"

Ahmed is seeking compensation for the affected residents. "ELAW helped us prepare an impressive memo for the court, outlining the damages that coal inflicts," says Ahmed.

Last year, Ahmed joined world leaders and activists from around the globe who gathered in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, for the United Nations Climate Change conference (COP27). ELAW Attorney Érick Kassongo also participated.

"It was enormously helpful to meet with Érick then later travel to Eugene for an ELAW Fellowship," says Ahmed who will participate in the 2023 ELAW Annual Meeting in Cebu, Philippines, in late June. "Sharing experiences with ELAW partners breathes new life into my work."

Many thanks to ELAW Host Family Susan and Dennis Sibilia-Young for hosting Ahmed for his 10-week visit.



Ahmed met with Rob Zako to discuss public transit, safe streets, walkable neighborhoods, and accessible bicycle infrastructure. Rob is Executive Director of Better Eugene-Springfield Transportation (BEST).



Ahmed visits Seattle's Space Needle.

"Ahmed was a wonderful guest, totally honored to host somebody like him making such great contributions. Thanks for sending him along."

Lynn Perkins, ELAW Fellows Host, Seattle

Dr. Fatima Diallo

Dakar, Senegal
April 7 – May 28, 2023

Dr. Fatima Diallo is a human rights lawyer and Executive Director of Centre de Recherche et d'Action sur les Droits Economiques, Sociaux et Culturels (Center for Research and Action on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, CRADESC). She also serves as Vice-Chair and Independent Expert of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

ELAW has worked with Dr. Diallo since 2020. While in Eugene, Dr. Diallo collaborated with our Law and Science Teams to protect the Saloum Delta from offshore oil development, empower agricultural communities in the Niayes region, and ensure that a battery recycling plant in the village of Ndiakhatt does not contaminate residents and the surrounding environment. Fatima also worked with our Development Team to strengthen CRADESC and identify funding prospects.

"CRADESC is part of the ELAW family," says Dr. Diallo. "ELAW helped analyze the environmental impact assessment for a proposed offshore oil development and helped us make many connections in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and beyond."

In December 2022, Dr. Diallo and her team celebrated when the government closed an Indian company's polluting battery recycling factory in Ndiakhatt. This followed a community campaign that spotlighted community health problems and the associated dangers of lead, cadmium, and mercury that contaminates the area surrounding the plant.

In March, the company was given permission to reopen and finish processing its stock. "We want to ensure that the factory does not reopen or relocate, and that best practices are deployed in the cleanup effort," says Dr. Diallo.

On April 27, CRADESC hosted a community workshop in Ndiakhatt to help residents share their concerns and ask questions. Dr. Diallo participated virtually (from Eugene) along with ELAW Scientists Dr. Mark Chernaik and Dr. Meche Lu.

Dr. Chernaik described the processes used at lead-acid battery recycling plants and the best practices for protecting community health, such as installing bag filters for capturing emissions of lead-laden dusts and storage of wastes on impermeable liners. Dr. Chernaik also shared evidence



CRADESC hosts a community workshop in Ndiakhatt (April 27, 2023). Community leaders are joined by: Matar Ndoye (second from left), President of the Farmer's Consultation Framework; Marie Paul Bassene (center), CRADESC Program Coordinator; and Dr. Salif Sane (second from right), CRADESC Program Manager, Litigation and Justiciability of Social and Economic Rights.



Following the workshop, members of a collective of impacted community members are interviewed by local journalists.

that the plant in Ndiakhatt is failing to follow these practices. Dr. Lu detailed a strategy for collecting and analyzing samples of soil near the plant in order to document the health hazard of the plant's operation, and the need for a prompt and comprehensive clean-up.

Many thanks to ELAW Host Family Shannon Micheel and Michael Kresko for hosting Dr. Diallo in Eugene.

American English Institute

Ahmed and Fatima join nearly 100 ELAW Fellows from 29 countries who have participated in the 10-week Intensive English Program at the University of Oregon's American English Institute (AEI). Many thanks to AEI for providing ELAW Fellows with tuition scholarships. **Since 1993, we have welcomed ELAW Fellows from 65 countries:**

Argentina	Colombia	Ecuador	Haiti	Kenya	Nigeria	Senegal	Uganda
Bangladesh	Congo (Brazzaville)	Egypt	Honduras	Laos	Pakistan	Slovakia	Ukraine
Belize	Congo (Kinshasa)	England	Hungary	Liberia	Panama	Spain	United Kingdom
Bolivia	Costa Rica	Estonia	India	Mexico	Papua New Guinea	Sri Lanka	Uruguay
Brazil	Georgia	Indonesia	Iran	Moldova	Peru	Swaziland	Zimbabwe
Cameroon	Germany	Iran	Mongolia	Morocco	Philippines	Switzerland	
Canada	Ghana	Israel	Morocco	Nepal	Poland	Tanzania	
Chile	Guatemala	Jamaica	Nicaragua	Russia	Thailand	Turkey	
China	Guinea (Conakry)	Japan					

The ELAW Fellows Program Grows



Frank Tumusiime
Kampala, Uganda
April 17 – 21, 2023

Frank Tumusiime is Coordinator and Senior Research Fellow at Advocates for Natural Resources and Development (ANARDE). Frank is drafting an energy transition policy for Uganda and East Africa. He traveled to Eugene to meet with ELAW's Law and Science Teams, economic analyst Ernie Niemi, and energy consultant Mike McCann. Frank also met with ELAW's Defending Defenders Team.

"Clean energy is less expensive," says Frank, who is working to convince officials in Uganda that transitioning away from fossil fuels is cost effective.

"There is no energy transition policy in Uganda, so the opportunity is now."

Many thanks to ELAW Host Family Dee Etwiler and Rob Thallon for hosting Frank in Eugene.

"I used my time to learn more about the environmental, social, and economic benefits that a clean energy transition would bring for Ugandans."

Frank Tumusiime

Frank Tumusiime at the ELAW office in Eugene, Oregon.



ELAW Fellows from Brazil visit Leaburg Dam, Oregon. L to R: Paulo Celso de Oliveira (Pankararu), Eliésio da Silva Vargas (Marubo), Maria Judite da Silva Ballerio (Guajajara), and Felipe Martins Cândido (Apurinã).

a network of Indigenous attorneys across the Brazilian Amazon. They were joined by Nadia de Matos Barros, a lawyer and Associate Director at Instituto Pro Bono where she heads projects to strengthen the work of Indigenous peoples' lawyers and supports pro bono climate litigation.

The Fellows worked closely with ELAW's Law, Science, and Defending Defenders Teams. They visited the Leaburg Dam, which will soon be removed from Oregon's McKenzie River. They also met with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) and attended Professor Howard Arnett's "Comparative Law of Indigenous Peoples" class at the University of Oregon School of Law. Many thanks to Professor Arnett and also to Dr. Aláí Reyes-Santos and Dr. Ana-Maurine Lara of the University of Oregon's Indigenous, Race and Ethnic Studies Department; Joe Scott (Takilma/Siletz), Traditional Ecological Inquiry Program; and Michael Moffitt of the University of Oregon Honors College for welcoming our guests.

Strengthening Indigenous Advocacy in Brazil

The Brazilian Amazon and its people face existential threats from illegal settlers, short-sighted destruction of natural resources, climate change, and more. "The ancestral knowledge of our people holds the promise of a more sustainable future and a rich contribution to humanity," says Paulo Celso de Oliveira (Pankararu), one of four ELAW Fellows who arrived from Brazil for a two-week visit starting late February.

Each of these attorneys represents Indigenous communities in local and regional efforts to protect sacred lands, defend human rights, and ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

Paulo, Maria Judite da Silva Ballerio (Guajajara), Eliésio da Silva Vargas (Marubo), and Felipe Martins Cândido (Apurinã) belong to

(BRAZIL continued)

Felipe says that his ELAW Fellowship helped him strengthen ties with ELAW and advance his work back home. "On my return to Rio Branco, I continued work on land tenure claims with the Apurinã and Jamamadi Indigenous Peoples and participated in a gathering with Indigenous Peoples from Amazonas, Acre and Rondônia, to discuss protecting Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation," he says.

"I help communities and their organizations protect their territories and the environment from many threats, including gas exploitation."

Paulo Celso de Oliveira

Since Paulo returned to Brazil, he has continued mentoring the Fellows and strengthening their organizations. The Fellows gathered recently in Brasilia at the Acampamento Terra Livre (Free Land Camp), now an annual gathering of Indigenous People from across Brazil who occupy the capital city and assert Indigenous land rights before national policy makers.



While in Eugene, the Fellows shared their work at a panel at the University of Oregon Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC): "Protecting Indigenous Lands in Brazil."

2020 ELAW Fellow Olivier Ndoole Named "Human Rights Defender at Risk"

Front Line Defenders has named 2020 ELAW Fellow Olivier Ndoole this year's African recipient of the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Award. The Award was established in 2005 to honor the work of defenders who courageously promote and protect the human rights of others, often at significant personal risk.

Olivier is founder and Executive Secretary at Alerte Congolaise pour l'Environnement et les Droits de l'Homme (Congolese Alert for the Environment and Human Rights, ACEDH), based in Goma, North Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Olivier provides legal services to communities that otherwise struggle to access legal aid because they live in rural areas and are taking on powerful and well-resourced entities, including the government and corporations seeking to exploit land, minerals, and wildlife.

The DRC is one of the world's most dangerous places to be an environmental and human rights defender. Bad actors target lawyers challenging land grabs, illegal mining and fishing, and wildlife trafficking. These lawyers protect the rights of communities and disrupt lucrative illicit enterprises, putting them at enormous risk.

Olivier's prosecution of government and corporate entities violating the rights of people and the environment has made him a target of attacks for years. In 2015, he was severely beaten by elements of the national intelligence agency, under the regime of President Joseph Kabila. He and his colleagues endure ongoing physical threats, spurious legal persecution, and surveillance because of their work.



Olivier Ndoole.

In September 2022, Olivier was poisoned and fell seriously ill. Around the same time, he learned that he and his organization were identified as targets by a non-state armed group because of their work calling for justice for Virunga Park rangers killed on duty. After that, he began sleeping in the bush, moving nightly to protect himself and his family from attacks.

This situation occurs at a time when ACEDH is facing a security crisis and a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation (SLAPP) in retaliation for its

legal proceedings challenging fishing permits in protected regions of Virunga National Park.

In October 2022, the non-state armed group started a violent campaign to gain control of Goma. Olivier refused to leave until he could complete oral arguments defending his clients. On November 5th, he was forced to flee Goma and has since been working remotely from a secure location outside of DRC to defend his clients, local communities, and land defenders, until he can return.

ELAW applauds Olivier's dedication to defending his clients and the environment in the DRC and congratulates him on this international recognition!

Events



ELAW Scientist Dr. Heidi Weiskel.

Health & Equity in a Green Transition

ELAW Scientist Dr. Heidi Weiskel joined longtime ELAW partner Shweta Narayan at a Harvard Climate Action Week workshop and dinner: *"Health and Equity in a Green Transition,"* sponsored by Harvard's FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and the Stanley Center for Peace and Security (May 8-9, 2023).

Shweta works from Kerala, India, as Global Climate and Health Campaigner at Healthcare Without Harm. In her workshop presentation, Shweta expanded on a policy paper she authored last year: *"Just Transition for Healthy People on a Healthy Planet."* Shweta points out that ecological health and human well-being are co-dependent, so a focus on health is foundational to a just transition away from fossil fuels. She also advocates for expanding green technology without replicating inequities and harm inherent in the fossil fuel extraction model.

"We can elevate historically marginalized communities and create a new model if we look through the lens of community and planetary health."

Shweta Narayan



ELAW partner Shweta Narayan.

Dr. Weiskel's virtual presentation picked up on this theme, addressing the damage that proposed deep sea mining for rare earth metals would cause to marine ecosystems, including rich fishing grounds and coastal communities near service ports and refining operations.

"Commercial mining of the ocean floor could start as early as July 2023," says Dr. Weiskel, who adds: "The international community does not have an agreement in place on regulations regarding extraction or a mechanism to avoid harm. Proponents of deep sea mining are not taking into account the irreversible loss of ecosystem services or the costs borne by species and communities."

Dr. Weiskel is a marine ecologist and works with partners around the world to protect ocean ecosystems. She co-leads ELAW's marine and coastal work.

Shweta says we have an enormous opportunity to expand the definition of a "just transition." "We can elevate historically marginalized communities and create a new model if we look through the lens of community and planetary health," she says.

Ratifying and Implementing the Escazú Agreement Across Latin America & the Caribbean

In March, ELAW brought together lawyers in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay for a virtual meeting to share lessons as they work to advance the Escazú Agreement, which entered into force in spring 2021.

The Escazú Agreement is a groundbreaking legal instrument for environmental protection and human rights, focusing on advancing rights and improving outcomes for the region's most vulnerable groups and communities. The agreement strengthens the links between human rights and environmental protection by imposing requirements upon member states to safeguard the rights of environmental defenders. It aims to give citizens full access to environmental information, environmental decision-making, and legal protection and recourse concerning environmental matters. It also recognizes the right of current and future generations to a healthy environment and sustainable development.

ELAW partners across Latin America and the Caribbean are working in countries that have ratified the agreement and are figuring out how to move toward implementation, as well as in countries that have yet to ratify. At the request of partners in the region, ELAW organized a conversation to help partners understand each other's work and identify opportunities to collaborate to realize the full potential of this historic agreement.

We look forward to collaborating with partners in the region to help them share lessons, catalyze strategies, and move this promising treaty forward!



Inside ELAW

Dr. Johnnie Chamberlin Joins ELAW Science Team

Our Science Team is growing! We are pleased to announce that Dr. Johnnie Chamberlin, an experienced scientist, will join our team of now seven PhD scientists who provide grassroots advocates around the world with the scientific support they need to protect the environment through law. He earned a PhD in Environmental Dynamics and worked as a research fellow on Project Drawdown. He has worked on conservation in his native Arkansas and authored guidebooks covering trails in the region. Dr. Chamberlin began work at ELAW in mid-June and will focus on helping our partners protect the climate.



Johnnie and Charlie walk Buddy near their home in San Anselmo, California.



Justice Kenneth Kakuru at Sahalie Falls, Oregon, in 2010.

Remembering Justice Kakuru

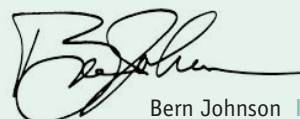
1958-2023

The Honorable Kenneth Kakuru, a trailblazing Ugandan public interest environmental lawyer and Justice at the Ugandan Court of Appeals, passed away this spring. I first met him at an ELAW Annual Meeting in the 1990s. As usual, he wore an impeccable suit — he was the best-dressed public interest environmental lawyer I ever met. His quiet, poised dignity and his radiant smile filled the room.

Justice Kakuru was an inspiring lawyer who encouraged and mentored young lawyers in Uganda and across Africa. He brought ground-breaking cases, creating legal precedents still cited by lawyers in Uganda and worldwide.

He founded Greenwatch, a major public interest environmental law organization in Uganda, and brought cases protecting Lake Victoria, chimpanzees, and pangolins. He also challenged government secrecy and plastic waste. He was immensely proud of his daughter, Samantha, who worked as an extern with ELAW in Eugene and is now a lawyer in Uganda leading Greenwatch.

Justice Kakuru was a giant in environmental law in Africa, and we will miss his infectious enthusiasm and energy. His memory will inspire us to carry on our work to protect communities and living things. Thank you, Mr. Kakuru!



Bern Johnson | ELAW Executive Director



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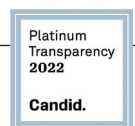
Host Family Program

If you are a Eugene area resident and wish to host an ELAW Fellow, or for any questions about the ELAW Host Family Program, please contact **Maggie Keenan**, ELAW Fellows Program Coordinator (maggie@elaw.org)

To support ELAW's work with inspiring partners around the world, please visit elaw.org/give or return the enclosed envelope.

ELAW Fellow Dr. Fatima Diallo and host Shannon Micheel compete in a sailboat race at Fern Ridge Reservoir. Shannon and her husband Michael Kresko (not photographed) hosted Dr. Diallo during her ELAW Fellowship. Big thanks Shannon and Michael!

THINK GLOBALLY. ACT GLOBALLY.



Charity Navigator and Candid give ELAW their highest rating for financial management, accountability, and transparency.