



LAW

Environmental
Law
Alliance
Worldwide

advocate

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Connecting Communities
Protecting the Planet

Building Strong Organizations

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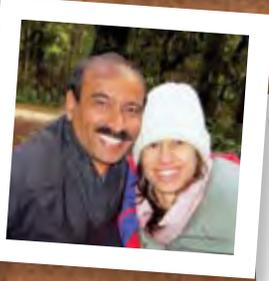
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Recent ELAW Fellows (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TOP TO BOTTOM)

- Thuli Makama, SWAZILAND
- Benedette Mutuku, KENYA
- Adolf Runyoro, TANZANIA
- Alejandra Serrano, MEXICO
- Nataliya Horodetska, UKRAINE
- Ali Athar Qazi, PAKISTAN
- Dana Tabachnik, ISRAEL
- Roles Theard, HAITI
- Chimgee Dashdorj, MONGOLIA
- Rahul Choudhary, INDIA
- Elena Chernobrovkina, RUSSIA
- Bazarsad Nanjindorj, MONGOLIA

"We are amplifying the voices of communities and making the government accountable to its people, its land, and its natural resources."

Laura Palmese Hernandez

The Environmental Law Alliance is working to strengthen the corps of grassroots advocates around the world dedicated to protecting communities and the environment. These advocates, working in their home countries, know best how to strengthen the rule of law and protect local communities. A key to this work is building strong local organizations that collaborate with communities to solve local problems.

ELAW has hosted more than 150 environmental professionals from all around the world. Many Fellows have founded or work for local non-profit organizations that take on David and Goliath battles seeking justice for the disadvantaged.

Helping our partners strengthen their organizations is a key part of ELAW Fellowships.

In October, ELAW welcomed three Fellows: Benedette Mutuku, Law and Policy Project Officer at the Institute for Law and Environmental Governance

(ILEG), based in Nairobi, Kenya; Adolf Runyoro, Legal Officer at the Lawyers' Environmental Action Team (LEAT), based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Laura Palmese Hernandez, an environmental attorney at Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras (IDAMHO, Environmental Law Institute).

Benedette, Adolf, and Laura all represent a new, young generation of grassroots advocates who are committed to building a greener and more just future.

Benedette and Adolf's two-week Fellowships included an intensive capacity building program for non-profits. They met with ELAW development professionals to hone their skills in strategic planning, board development, fundraising, communications, and more. They met with leadership coach Michael McNally and worked with ELAW Staff Attorneys and Staff Scientists to build skills and advance their work at home.

Building Strong Organizations continued

Strengthening local organizations in East Africa is critical to protecting the region's vast natural resources.

"Recent discoveries of oil in Turkana and minerals on Kenya's coast are keeping us busy," says Benedette. "We need equitable sharing of benefits and public participation in decisions about natural resources."

Adolf's current projects include safeguarding Tanzanians from lead paint and collaborating with colleagues to protect the land rights of Maasai communities threatened by foreign interests seeking land for trophy hunting.

In Central America, ELAW has worked with IDAMHO founder Clarisa Vega for many years to protect the Mesoamerican Reef and challenge short-sighted tourism development. Laura is a recent law graduate who was hired by Clarisa after volunteering at IDAMHO.

"We are amplifying the voices of communities and making the government accountable to its people, its land, and its natural resources," says Laura.

Laura will be in Eugene for 10 weeks and will work one-on-one with the ELAW team to build her skills and strengthen IDAMHO. She will also study English at the University of Oregon's American English Institute, (AEI) which generously provides ELAW Fellows with a Director's Distinction Scholarship.

ELAW is located on the edge of the University of Oregon campus, so ELAW Fellows have valuable opportunities to work with students and faculty. ELAW Fellows also offer a unique opportunity for citizens of Eugene and the campus community to meet, learn from, and work with the planet's most committed and courageous environmental defenders.

We design each ELAW Fellowship to meet the specific needs of the Fellow. We provide one-on-one training with ELAW Staff Attorneys, Scientists, and development staff, and reach out to other experts in the U.S. and around the world, to help ELAW Fellows meet their training objectives.

ELAW Fellows also learn about the ELAW network and how they can collaborate with colleagues across borders to obtain critical legal and scientific resources.

ELAW Fellows have gone on to do outstanding work and become respected leaders. Four ELAW Fellows later won the prestigious Goldman Environmental Prize, including 2010 Goldman Prize winner Thuli Makama from Swaziland.

Many thanks to the Ford Foundation and the Summit Foundation for supporting our ELAW Fellows from Kenya, Tanzania and Honduras.

We would also like to thank Laurie Prosser and Xiaoli Jiang for supporting Adolf's Fellowship.



Benedette Mutuku, Adolf Runyoro, and Laura Palmese Hernandez met with Ernie Niemi, a natural resource economist. Ernie and ELAW Board member Bill Jaeger have done great work explaining economics to visiting Fellows.

ELAW designs each Fellowship to meet the Fellows' needs. Fellow may:

- Work one-on-one with ELAW staff lawyers, scientists, and development professionals, as well as experts in resource economics and more.
- Participate in the ELAW Annual Meeting.
- Participate in environmental law and other classes at the University of Oregon, and present at brown bag lunches with the Department of International Studies and others.
- Meet with UO student groups, including the African Student Association, the Native American Law Student Association, and others.
- Participate in the UO Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (www.pielc.org).
- Collaborate with organizations working on similar issues in the Pacific Northwest, such as Oregon Wild, the Western Environmental Law Center, Cascadia Wildlands, the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, the Washington Forest Law Center, and others.
- Meet with government agencies, and attend public hearings and court sessions at Lane County Circuit Court and the U.S. District Court.
- Participate in public presentations to Eugene community groups and meet with the press.



Many people in Eugene, Portland, and Seattle generously host ELAW Fellows. Many thanks to Penny Salus and Jared Rubin (pictured here with their children Tali and Luis) who hosted Laura for her first two weeks in Eugene. If you are interested in hosting ELAW Fellows – for a meal, a day trip to the coast or Cascades, or a short home stay – please contact Maggie Keenan, ELAW Fellows Program Coordinator (Maggie@elaw.org).