



Centre for Environment  
Justice and Development

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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# Foreword

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD.

**Dear Esteemed reader,**



On behalf of the Advisory Board of Centre for Environment Justice and Development, I am pleased to present the annual report for 2024. This report highlights the achievements made by our team in collaboration with partners towards fulfilling our vision.

As you will read in this report, we have advocated for sustainable policies and legislations that protect human health and the environment using scientific and evidence-based knowledge that we have generated. This could not be possible without the unwavering support and dedication of our staff who we cannot show enough gratitude to.

The impact and innovations we delivered in the year 2024 will allow us to move forward with a raised ambition and a greater sense of urgency to achieve a sustainable action for environmental development. I would like to recognize the remarkable efforts of the Executive Director, donors, and partners. Together, we head into the year 2025 with a great sense of optimism and determination to promote environmental stewardship.

Thank you,

**Dr. Roselyne Atieno,,  
Chairlady of the board**

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

**Dear Partners, Supporters, and Friends,**



As we reflect on 2024, I am pleased to share our achievements in advancing a just and sustainable society free from toxic chemicals. This year, we increased our efforts to protecting communities from the harms caused by chemicals and waste, influenced policy discussions on chemicals and waste management at national, and international levels and empowered grassroots movements to demand a just society.

CEJAD promoted safer alternatives for waste management and harmful chemicals and deepened collaboration with government agencies, civil society and communities reinforcing the power of collective action.

Moving forward we remain committed to promoting a just and sustainable society free of toxic chemicals. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and partnership in this journey.

We would like to reassure all our donors and partners that we remain committed to our existing partnerships in serving our common goals of achieving a just and sustainable society free of toxic chemicals.

we would like thank you ,our donors and partners for your continued support.

Together, we will keep driving change.

**Mr. Griffins Ochieng**  
**Executive Director, CEJAD**

# Acronyms

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<b>AMCEN</b>	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
<b>ASGM</b>	Artisanal Small Scale Gold Mining
<b>BFFP</b>	Break Free from Plastics
<b>CEJAD</b>	Centre for Environment Justice and Development
<b>COP</b>	Conference of Parties
<b>CPAM</b>	Community Pesticide Action Monitoring
<b>CPSP</b>	Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations.
<b>EAC</b>	East Africa Community
<b>EEB</b>	European Environmental Bureau
<b>EMCA</b>	Environmental Management and Coordination Act
<b>ESG</b>	Environmental, Social and Governance
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GAIA</b>	Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives
<b>GHS</b>	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
<b>HEVAC</b>	Association of heating, refrigeration, ventilation and air conditioning technicians
<b>HFC</b>	Hydrofluorocarbons Carbons
<b>HHPs</b>	Highly Hazardous Pesticides
<b>IEC</b>	Information Education and Communication
<b>ILPPWA</b>	International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action
<b>INC</b>	Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee
<b>IPEN</b>	International Pollutants Elimination Network
<b>KEBS</b>	Kenya Bureau of Standards
<b>MOP</b>	Meetings of the Parties
<b>NACODS</b>	National Committee on Ozone Depleting Substances
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>PFAS</b>	Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAWPA</b>	South Africa Waste Pickers Association
<b>SDM</b>	State Department of Mining
<b>TPHPA</b>	Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority
<b>TWG</b>	Technical Working Group
<b>UNEA</b>	United Nations Environment Assembly
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Program
<b>UV Stabilizers</b>	Ultraviolet stabilizers
<b>ZMWG</b>	Zero Mercury Working Group

# Introduction

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**C**entre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD) is a public interest non-governmental organization registered in Kenya. Our mission is to promote sound management of chemicals and waste for better human health and the environment, with the vision to achieve a just and sustainable society free of toxic chemicals and waste. We are also a UNEP-accredited organization and a participating organization of international alliances such as Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA), International Pollutant Elimination Network (IPEN), Zero Mercury Working Group (ZMWG), and Break Free from Plastics (BFFP).

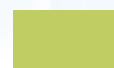
Our key program areas include the **elimination of highly hazardous pesticides, plastics and waste management, the elimination of ozone layer-depleting substances, the elimination of lead in paint,** and the elimination of mercury. Our approach involves conducting research, engaging with grassroots communities, raising awareness, and facilitating policy dialogue at national, regional, and global levels.

# Our coverage area and global reach

## 📍 NATIONAL



## 📍 REGIONAL



**EAC**



**SADC**

# 2024 Achievements



**59.6K**

people reached through our social media awareness



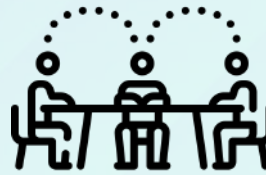
Over **150** Watste Pickers sensitized on Zero waste



Over **2700** miners' capacity built on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)



Over **27** CSOs join the End Plastics pollution coalition



Hosted over **10** multi-stakeholder forums and side events



**4** Local democracy labs held in Mombasa County



**6** staff recruited



New program "**Ozone and Climate**" launched



Over **30** people trained on community pesticide action monitoring



we participated in more than **10** national, regional and global policy-making spaces



# Highlights

## Standards review to eliminate toxic chemicals in Plastics

CEJAD in collaboration with Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) and the sub-committee on chemicals in products under the Multisectoral Committee initiated the review of the standards for plastic toys and plastic food packaging to eliminate the use of toxic chemicals. The subcommittee has held several consultations with the aim of identifying priority chemicals that are listed in the Stockholm Convention for elimination from consumer products which include flame retardants, UV stabilizers and PFAs.



## Advancing a just transition for waste pickers in Kenya



CEJAD is advancing the integration of a just transition for waste pickers in the county policies and laws. To achieve this, we have held stakeholder meetings to create awareness and sensitize them on the concept of just transition in line with the negotiation on the plastic treaty

Just transition means greening the economy in a way that is as fair and inclusive as possible to everyone concerned, creating decent work opportunities and leaving no one behind.

In Kisumu County the meeting brought together waste pickers, civil society organizations working on waste management/supporting waste pickers, private sector and county officials.

## Driving Zero waste solution and mainstreaming organic waste management

CEJAD in collaboration with Kisumu County Waste Pickers Association, successfully piloted the implementation of a zero-waste system and organic waste management mainstreaming in Obunga, Kisumu County. The project saw over 30 households in the low-income community embrace waste separation at the source. To achieve this, waste pickers were trained on zero-waste principles and household waste sorting. The waste pickers took the responsibility to monitor and record data with the help of CEJAD, additionally, zero waste marches were organized and household brand audits conducted.



## Substantive Participation of the Africa Region in the Plastics Treaty Negotiation



CEJAD continued to support delegates in the African region to substantively participate in the plastics treaty negotiations. As technical experts for the region on the subject matter, the support included developing technical briefs for delegates on specific areas such as chemicals of concern, plastic product design, and Legal drafting group, as well as on collaboratively establishing linkages with other regions to garner support for Africa as the bearers of high ambition in the plastics treaty negotiations

## Improving grassroots engagement in Waste Management governance through Participatory Action Research

Through our participatory Action Research project, waste pickers and CSOs are represented in the Technical Working Committee on Environment and Waste Management in Mombasa County thereby increasing their participation in decision-making. The committee consists of representatives from county government, CSOs, and grassroots waste picker organizations. The integration of waste pickers and CSOs in decision-making promotes policy accountability and a just transition toward a circular economy.



## Multi-stakeholder collaboration in ending plastic pollution Kenya

The growing national concern and public debate on the impact of plastic pollution and the need to address plastic pollution throughout the lifecycle called for a multi stakeholder approach. To inform the CSOs engagement and advocacy to end plastic pollution CEJAD convened a CSOs coalition to develop a campaign strategy...This strategy aims to promote continued collaboration with CSOs, the media and other stakeholders.



Additionally, we collaborated with the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change by co-convening TWGs and collaborating through productive bilateral meetings that led to enhanced coordination, shared goals, and a collaborative approach in strengthening Kenya's position against plastic pollution.

## Empowering Waste Pickers through movement building and collective action.



The leadership, governance and management skills of waste pickers have been enhanced contributing to the strengthening of the waste pickers welfare associations in Kenya. This progress has been achieved through continued support and capacity building to the waste pickers associations. In Kisumu, the waste pickers have received targeted training on good governance and empowered with advocacy skills on human rights, labour rights and environmental justice.

Additionally, CEJAD facilitated an exchange visit to the South African Waste Pickers Association (SAWPA) biennial meetings in Johannesburg.

## Advancing Sustainability and Governance in the ASGM Sector

We strengthened the capacity of 2700 miners on sustainability and governance of the ASGM sector. This was done through training on key areas of leadership and governance, records keeping, Environmental Social and Governance (ESG), and financial management. Additionally, to enhance sustainability through knowledge management, we distributed IEC materials. The training was held in Migori, Kakamega, Narok and Turkana counties.



The knowledge gained will significantly improve the capacity of miners and their organizations, equipping them with the vital knowledge and skills to adopt sustainable environmental practices in the Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining (ASGM) sector.

Additionally, CEJAD and Solidaridad supported the development of a draft guideline to operationalize self-regulation in the Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) sector in collaboration with the State Department for Mining (SDM).

This process is being spearheaded by a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group (TWG) established by SDM. These guidelines will improve compliance with mining laws and strengthen adherence to health and safety regulations, environmental protection standards, and child labour laws among others.

## Strengthening HFC reduction commitments in Kenya

CEJAD is a member and participates in the National Committee on Ozone Depleting Substances (NACODS) meetings. Through this engagement, we have contributed to the strengthening of HFC reduction commitments and implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Kenya.

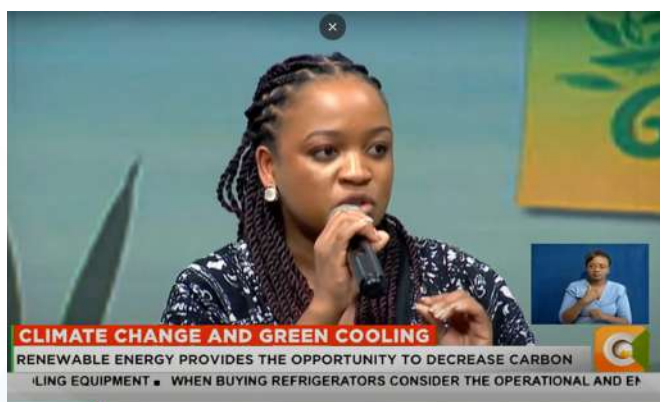


The NACODS identified challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol such as the need to review section 56 of the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) the protection of the ozone layer. A subcommittee has been established to address this gap. CEJAD is a member of the subcommittee.

Our engagement with NACODS has strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration, driving meaningful national action on ozone protection.

## Advancing public awareness on ozone and climate protection

CEJAD participated in the TV program as part of media awareness on World Ozone Day 2024. The TV program highlighted the Montreal Protocol treaty, the importance of protecting the ozone layer, and the benefits of transitioning to natural cooling technologies.



Additionally, we collaborated with HEVAC-Kenya and supported the exhibition showcasing natural refrigerants during the national event of the WOD held at the Metrological Department of Kenya.

By advocating for sustainable cooling solutions, we continue to drive progress toward a climate-friendly future.



## Monitoring the use and effects of pesticides in communities in Kenya

Through engagement with farming communities, we successfully documented the use and impacts of pesticides in Kajiado, Kirinyaga and Naivasha using the Community Pesticide Action Monitoring (CPAM) tool. This is participatory action research which involves and empowers communities to actively be part of the solution through policy advocacy at the community and national levels.



## Fostering regional harmonization of HHPs risk reduction in East and Southern Africa

CEJAD has actively contributed to the development of draft Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and East Africa Community (EAC) regional strategies on HHPs risk reduction. Through technical backstopping and financial contribution, we supported the convening of a regional review meeting in Tanzania for EAC strategy in collaboration with FAO, CPSP, Swedish Chemicals Agency.



In addition, CEJAD in collaboration with the University of Cape Town facilitated the review of the draft SADC HHP strategy during the annual meeting of SADC Plant Protection Technical Committee. These strategies provide a policy framework for phasing out HHPs in the two regions to protect health and the environment.

## Strengthening national capacities on the management of pesticide suicide prevention

Through engagement with the Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority (TPHPA) in Tanzania and the Ministry of Agriculture in Zimbabwe, we supported studies on pesticide poisonings in the two countries.

The studies were conducted through a multistakeholder approach that brought together the ministries of agriculture, health, environment, the police, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations.



The studies were supported by CEJAD and CPSP as part of the project on strengthening national and regional capacities on the management of HHPs in EAC and SADC region.

## Advancing the elimination of lead exposure

CEJAD continues to advocate for elimination of lead exposure particularly among children and the vulnerable populations. During the commemoration of the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (ILPPWA) 2024 we collaborated with the National Multi stakeholders committee on sound chemicals management in raising awareness among the Kenyan public.



We participated in a media briefing on the urgent need for action against lead exposure. Through social media campaigns, roadshows, and technical meetings, we engaged various stakeholders on a call to action to eliminate Lead in paint and exposure among children.



"CEJAD CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR ELIMINATION OF LEAD EXPOSURE PARTICULARLY AMONG CHILDREN AND THE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS."

# Other Achievements

Over the past year, we made significant strides in advancing our mission through a series of impactful events hosted both locally and globally. The following section provides insights for such events.

- ✦ We hosted a regional pesticides network meeting for the Pan Africa region.
- ✦ In October 2024, CEJAD successfully hosted experts from Africa to prepare for the development of technical briefs on key topical issues in support of the African experts in negotiating the plastics treaty.



- ✦ During UNEA 6, we hosted a side event at the Sixth Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives in preparation for UNEA 6. The event aimed to enhance governance on Plastic and Waste Management at national, regional, and international levels through civil society engagement and policy influence.

The recorded session for this event can be found in this [link](#)





# Awards and Recognition



*CEJAD's project on 'Advancing non-toxic circular economy in Kenya' was recognised as one of the Outstanding projects by the Plastic Waste Partnership of the Basel Convention.*



*CEJAD was recognized and awarded for the efforts in raising awareness and leading in policy advocacy review for Lead elimination in Kenya*

# Capacity-building and Trainings

In the past year, CEJAD participated in various professional development trainings and capacity building workshop which included:



*NGO capacity building convened by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), in Brussels, Belgium.*



*The Local Democracy Academy at the University of Lund organized by ICLD Sweden*



*Zero Waste Academy organised by Nipe Fagio Tanzania*

# Events

Throughout the year, our commitment to promoting sound chemicals and waste management gained recognition leading to invitations to participate in various events as experts, panellists, presenters and speakers. This section culminates the opportunities we got to advance our work and share evidence-based knowledge, insights and best practices on environmental issues that inspired action toward sustainable and inclusive solutions.

## ➔ National



*CEJAD participated the NACODS meetings. NACODS Machakos*



*CEJAD hosted CSO strategic plan on End plastics pollution*



*We successfully held a Media briefing during INC5 preparation*





*We co-hosted a Media briefing during ILPPWA to create awareness on lead exposure.*

 **Regional**



*Participation in the Regional Network Meeting of English-speaking African countries and a twinning workshop for National Ozone Officers held in Mozambique*

- ✦ Our programs officer joined other Climate Change for Health Professionals in a workshop on moving towards climate-smart healthcare. She presented on plastics and healthcare linking the health impacts of toxic plastics and to poisoning of food chains.



- ✦ Regional Focal Points meet in Kigali to Develop Priorities and Strategies for the fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee



## ➔ International

- ✦ Our project officer, joined fellow Global South Leaders to Respond to INC4 Negotiations and share what the treaty would mean for Global South



- ✦ CEJAD with other partners during the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention (COP 13) and the 36th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 36) in Bangkok





*Workshop on regional harmonization of rules governing the registration and management of pesticides in the Sahel and West Africa in Cape Vade*



*Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) workshop in South Africa*



*CPSP partners global retreat in Edinburgh Scotland*



*International Zero waste Cities Conference in Dar es salaam Tanzania.*



*Open-ended working group of the Basel convention in Geneva.*



*CEJAD team during INC4 that took place in Ottawa, Canada*



*CEJAD team members at INC5 in Busan, Korea*



*CEJAD team at UNEA 6 in Kenya.*



*ICGLR Regional Forum on Mineral Value-Addition and Cross-Border Trade held in South Sudan*



*CEJAD at the Tenth Special Session of AMCEN in Abidjan*



*46th Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG-46) in Montreal, Canada*



*CEJAD team at INC4 in Ottawa, Canada*

# Publications

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## Link to News article, OP-eds and TV appearances

1. [For the sake of children, step up efforts to produce lead-free paints](#)
2. [How high lead exposure is putting many lives in Kenya at risk](#)
3. [Lead Exposure Risks I Can lead to intellectual disability in children](#)
4. [Wizara ya afya yaonya dhidi ya bidhaa zenye madini](#)
5. [Lead poisoning affects the learning of 3 million children in Kenya](#)
6. [Janga la sumu ya chuma](#)
7. [PS Muthoni launches International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action](#)
8. [Negotiators fail to agree on treaty to curb plastic pollution](#)
9. [All you need to know about the global plastic treaty](#)
10. [Waste pickers: The unsung heroes tackling plastic pollution crisis](#)
11. [Plastics Ban Treaty Crossroads: Can INC-5 Deliver?](#)
12. [Africa must unite against plastic pollution,](#)
13. [kenyan csos urge african unity to combat hazardous chemicals in plastics](#)
14. [Kenya tightens laws on plastic bags amid global push for sustainability](#)
15. [Lobbies call for African unity to tackle plastics](#)
16. [Urgency and Challenges in Finalizing Global Plastic Pollution Treaty](#)



# Our Team

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"We thank you for your continued hard work "

# Our Partners

We extend our gratitude to our partners and donors for your unwavering support and commitment, which empowers us to make a meaningful impact nationally, regionally, and globally.

**HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG**  
**NAIROBI**  
Kenya | Uganda | Tanzania

**SIGRID RAUSING TRUST**  
**#BreakFreeFromPlastic**

**IICLD** Swedish International  
Centre for Local Democracy

**Centre for  
PESTICIDE SUICIDE  
PREVENTION**

**THE UNIVERSITY  
of EDINBURGH**

## Solidaridad

**Norad**

**IPEN**  
for a toxics-free future

**sage**  
FUND  
STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY  
IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

**Fund**

**Nipe  
Fagio**  
Zero Waste TZ

the social change  
**nest**

**NIVA**

**gaia**

**ARNIKA**

**CIEL**

**zero** Hg  
mercury working group

**eia** environmental  
investigation  
agency

**EEB**  
European  
Environmental  
Bureau



**Centre for Environment  
Justice and Development**

Centre for Environmental Justice and  
Development,  
(+254) 0720 465 500  
info@cejadkenya.org  
www.cejadkenya.org  
3rd Floor, Ngong Hills Hotel Business center,  
Opposite Bishop Magua Centre, Ngong Rd,  
Nairobi, Kenya.