



# **Environmental Justice in Resource-Rich African Nations: A South African Perspective**

**Nomonde Dlamini<sup>1</sup>, Mpho Molele<sup>2</sup>, Siphon Khumalo<sup>3,4</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Durban University of Technology (DUT)

<sup>2</sup> Vaal University of Technology (VUT)

<sup>3</sup> Department of Advanced Studies, Vaal University of Technology (VUT)

<sup>4</sup> Durban University of Technology (DUT)

**Published:** 01 September 2012 | **Received:** 09 April 2012 | **Accepted:** 16 July 2012

**Correspondence:** [ndlamini@hotmail.com](mailto:ndlamini@hotmail.com)

**DOI:** [10.5281/zenodo.18978359](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18978359)

## **Author notes**

*Nomonde Dlamini is affiliated with Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, Durban University of Technology (DUT) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Mpho Molele is affiliated with Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

*Siphon Khumalo is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Vaal University of Technology (VUT) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.*

## **Abstract**

Environmental justice movements in resource-rich African nations have gained prominence due to the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation on marginalized communities. In South Africa, these movements are particularly relevant given its status as a biodiversity hotspot and significant mineral wealth. The study employs a mixed-methods approach involving qualitative interviews with stakeholders involved in environmental justice movements, document analysis of relevant legislation and policies, and thematic synthesis of existing literature on environmental justice in South Africa. Community-based initiatives have shown significant success in advocating for stricter regulation and compensation schemes. However, the effectiveness of these efforts is undermined by weak enforcement mechanisms and inadequate stakeholder engagement. While progress has been made, substantial challenges persist in translating legal protections into practical outcomes that benefit local communities disproportionately affected by resource extraction. Future research should focus on strengthening regulatory frameworks and enhancing community participation. Policy reforms are required to bolster enforcement of existing environmental laws, increase public awareness about the impacts of resource exploitation, and ensure equitable distribution of compensation funds. Environmental Justice, Resource Extraction, South Africa, Stakeholder Engagement

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan, resource curse, social justice, sustainability, participatory democracy*

## ABSTRACT-ONLY PUBLICATION

This is an abstract-only publication. The complete research paper with full methodology, results, discussion, and references is available upon request.

✉ **REQUEST FULL PAPER**

**Email:** [info@parj.africa](mailto:info@parj.africa)

Request your copy of the full paper today!

## SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH

**Are you a researcher in Africa? We welcome your submissions!**

Join our community of African scholars and share your groundbreaking work.

**Submit at:** [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)



Scan to visit [app.parj.africa](http://app.parj.africa)

**Open Access Scholarship from PARJ**

Empowering African Research | Advancing Global Knowledge