



Climate Change Litigation and Enforcement in South African Environmental Law Context,

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Abstract

Climate change litigation has become a significant aspect of environmental law enforcement in South Africa, complemented by stringent legislative frameworks aimed at mitigating its impacts. A comprehensive review of judicial decisions related to climate change cases within South Africa's legal system was conducted. The analysis included a qualitative assessment of case outcomes and legal arguments presented by litigants. The findings indicate that while there has been an increase in climate change-related litigation, the proportion of successful cases remains relatively low, suggesting potential gaps in enforcement mechanisms. Despite notable efforts, current environmental law enforcement lacks robustness to address evolving climate change challenges, particularly in terms of proactive prevention and comprehensive adaptation measures. Enhanced training for legal practitioners on climate change impacts and mitigation strategies is recommended. Additionally, a more integrated approach between environmental laws and climate policy frameworks is suggested to improve the effectiveness of judicial decisions. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta}^{\rightarrow} p X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: *African climate zones, Climate law enforcement, Environmental jurisprudence, Legal frameworks, Litigation strategies, Sustainability assessments, Climate change impacts*

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