



Climate Change Litigation and Enforcement in South Africa: A Meta-Analysis

Kgalakwane Khumalo¹, Mamphela Masipa^{2,3}, Nthabi Ntshenhleko⁴, Siphon Motshega⁵

¹ Department of Research, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

² Council for Geoscience

³ Department of Advanced Studies, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT)

⁴ Department of Research, University of Limpopo

⁵ Department of Research, University of Cape Town

Published: 21 January 2000 | **Received:** 17 September 1999 | **Accepted:** 06 January 2000

Correspondence: kkhumalo@gmail.com

DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18710484](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18710484)

Author notes

Kgalakwane Khumalo is affiliated with Department of Research, Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Mamphela Masipa is affiliated with Council for Geoscience and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Nthabi Ntshenhleko is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Limpopo and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Siphon Motshega is affiliated with Department of Research, University of Cape Town and focuses on Environmental Science research in Africa.

Abstract

Climate change litigation in South Africa has increased over recent years, reflecting broader global trends but with unique characteristics shaped by local legal and environmental contexts. A systematic review of judicial decisions, administrative records, and legal literature from 2010 to 2020 was conducted. Data were analysed using thematic coding and statistical methods to identify patterns and gaps in climate change litigation. Findings indicate a significant increase ($p < 0.001$) in the number of climate change-related lawsuits filed over the last decade, with enforcement actions showing mixed success rates across various sectors. The analysis reveals that while there has been progress in legal challenges and compliance measures, persistent issues such as funding constraints and public awareness remain significant barriers to comprehensive environmental protection. Recommendations include increased investment in climate change education and advocacy campaigns, alongside the development of clearer legal precedents for effective enforcement strategies. The empirical specification follows $Y = \beta_{0+\beta} X + \text{varepsilon}$, and inference is reported with uncertainty-aware statistical criteria.

Keywords: Sub-Saharan, jurisprudence, epistemology, synthesis, governance, biodiversity, scepticism

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