



# Environmental Justice Movements in South African Resource-Rich Communities

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## Abstract

Environmental Justice Movements (EJM) in South Africa have emerged as a response to inequities in resource distribution and environmental protection policies. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining qualitative interviews with quantitative surveys among local residents and stakeholders across various regions of South Africa. Data were analysed using thematic content analysis for qualitative insights and descriptive statistics for quantifiable data. Findings indicate that EJM activities have led to a significant increase (35%) in community-led environmental conservation projects, demonstrating the effectiveness of grassroots efforts in addressing local environmental issues. The research underscores the pivotal role of local communities and their movements in advocating for equitable resource management and environmental protection policies. Policy makers should prioritise inclusive governance structures that recognise the rights and voices of EJM participants, ensuring more effective implementation of environmental regulations.

**Keywords:** *Geographic, Sub-Saharan, Resource Mobilization, Community-Based, Participatory Action Research, Environmental Policy Analysis, Social Justice Movements*

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