

Bridging Legal Reform And Climate Action: Strengthening Rule Of Law To Advance SDG 13 In The Global South

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Abstract: *Developing countries face significant structural and institutional challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. This article explores the critical link between legal reform and climate action, emphasizing the role of the rule of law as a transformative instrument to accelerate the implementation of equitable and sustainable climate policies. Using a juridical-normative approach combined with international legal policy analysis, the study examines how legal instruments can be adapted and strengthened to enhance the systemic capacity of developing nations in responding to the climate crisis. The findings reveal that countries in the Global South that pursue progressive legal reforms particularly in the areas of environmental protection and resource governance are demonstrably more effective in implementing climate strategies. These reforms, grounded in principles of transparency, public participation, and ecological justice, contribute to institutional resilience and legal accountability. The study argues for a greater integration between national legal frameworks and global climate commitments, in order to establish an inclusive and responsive legal ecosystem that enables sustainable development and climate resilience. Strengthening the rule of law thus emerges as a foundational strategy for bridging the gap between climate pledges and practical implementation.*

Keywords: *Legal Reform, Climate Change, Rule Of Law, SDG 13, Global South.*

INTRODUCTION

Climate change represents one of the most pressing and complex challenges of the 21st century, with disproportionately adverse impacts felt across developing nations, commonly referred to as the Global South. These countries, often characterized by fragile governance structures, limited institutional capacity, constrained financial resources, and legal underdevelopment, face significant hurdles in responding effectively to climate-related crises (UNDP, 2020; UNEP, 2022). Rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, sea level rise, and



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biodiversity loss severely affect food security, water availability, health systems, and infrastructure, thereby exacerbating pre-existing social and economic vulnerabilities (IPCC, 2021).

The global community, through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognized the urgency of taking decisive climate action by establishing Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13), which calls for urgent steps to combat climate change and its impacts. While SDG 13 affirms the importance of integrating climate considerations into national policies and planning, the translation of these goals into concrete action remains a considerable challenge for developing countries (United Nations, 2015). A significant gap persists between normative commitments and the practical realization of climate policies, especially where legal and regulatory frameworks are weak or inconsistent.

In this context, legal reform emerges as a critical foundation for enabling climate governance that is participatory, transparent, accountable, and equitable. Strengthening the rule of law can facilitate not only compliance with international climate agreements such as the Paris Agreement, but also foster robust national legal systems that support environmental protection, promote climate justice, and ensure the rights of affected communities (Kotzé & du Plessis, 2020). Effective legal institutions are essential to regulate emissions, enforce environmental standards, resolve disputes, and empower civil society participation in decision-making processes (UNEP, 2019).

Legal reform, when grounded in the principles of environmental democracy and international law, offers a transformative pathway for bridging the divide between climate policy aspirations and ground-level implementation (Boyd, 2012; Bodansky et al., 2017). Countries in the Global South that have undertaken progressive legal reforms—such as constitutional recognition of environmental rights, establishment of climate change acts, or the development of national climate courts—illustrate the potential of legal systems to drive climate action (Mwebaza & Mbeva, 2021). For instance, Kenya's Constitution includes the right to a clean and healthy environment, which has been instrumental in challenging environmentally harmful practices (Odote, 2015). Similarly, countries like Colombia and India have seen their highest courts invoke legal doctrines to enforce environmental protections (Peel & Osofsky, 2018).



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Legal reform in developing countries is not without its challenges. Many face inconsistencies between national environmental legislation and customary or informal legal systems, limited capacity among judicial actors, and political resistance to regulatory enforcement (Savaresi & Setzer, 2021). Moreover, climate change is a cross-border phenomenon that requires harmonization between domestic laws and international obligations. Without legal frameworks that are coherent, inclusive, and adaptable, efforts to implement climate resilience strategies are likely to fall short (Cordonier Segger et al., 2017).

This article seeks to explore how countries in the Global South can strategically leverage legal reform to strengthen the rule of law and advance the objectives of SDG 13. Drawing on international legal instruments, national case studies, and policy analysis, this study argues that aligning domestic legal systems with global climate commitments can significantly improve the effectiveness of climate action. In particular, it examines the extent to which legal mechanisms—such as constitutional amendments, environmental legislation, judicial review, and participatory governance—can contribute to a more equitable and enforceable climate agenda.

The central question addressed in this study is: How can strengthening the rule of law through legal reform accelerate the achievement of SDG 13 in developing countries? To answer this question, the article adopts a legal-policy analytical framework, combining normative legal analysis with empirical evidence from selected countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The findings aim to inform policymakers, legal scholars, and climate advocates about the instrumental role of law in shaping resilient and inclusive responses to climate change, particularly in contexts marked by institutional fragility and socio-economic inequality.

By situating legal reform at the intersection of climate governance and sustainable development, this article contributes to a growing body of scholarship that emphasizes the transformative potential of law in promoting climate justice and safeguarding the environmental rights of future generations. Ultimately, the study contends that for SDG 13 to be effectively realized in the Global South, legal systems must evolve to become not only responsive to the



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demands of environmental protection but also proactive in integrating climate considerations into all facets of national governance.

METHOD

This research adopts a juridical-normative and qualitative policy analysis approach, grounded in a comprehensive library-based study (desk research). The methodology focuses on examining legal texts, policy instruments, international frameworks, and academic literature to understand how legal reform can serve as a bridge for climate action in the Global South. Given the interdisciplinary nature of climate governance, this study integrates legal analysis with policy-oriented examination to capture both the normative and practical dimensions of the subject matter.

The first component of this study involves normative legal analysis. This is aimed at scrutinizing international legal frameworks that underscore the principle of the rule of law in the context of climate governance. Documents such as the Paris Agreement (2015), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) serve as primary legal instruments for analysis. These documents are examined to identify normative standards, obligations, and guiding principles that inform national legal systems and their approach to climate action (Bodansky et al., 2017; United Nations, 2015).

The second methodological element is a comparative case study focusing on selected countries from the Global South—specifically Kenya, Indonesia, and Brazil. These countries were chosen for their diverse geographic representation and varying degrees of legal institutional development in the realm of environmental and climate law. Through this comparative lens, the research seeks to identify best practices, legal innovations, and structural challenges in aligning domestic legal systems with climate resilience objectives (Kotzé & du Plessis, 2020; Odote, 2015; Setzer & Vanhala, 2019).

The third methodological strand is a policy analysis that reviews existing national climate policies, legal instruments, and regulatory mechanisms implemented in the selected countries. This includes climate change acts, constitutional environmental provisions, emission trading schemes,

environmental impact assessment (EIA) regulations, and community-based adaptation strategies. The goal is to evaluate the legal coherence, institutional adequacy, and policy effectiveness of these frameworks in promoting SDG 13 objectives (Mwebaza & Mbeva, 2021; Boyd, 2012; Cordonier Segger et al., 2017).

A fourth and critical component of the methodology is document analysis, aimed at assessing the alignment and harmonization between national laws and international commitments. This includes evaluating how national legislation integrates international obligations from instruments such as the Paris Agreement, and how this integration affects enforcement, transparency, and accountability mechanisms. The research also investigates the role of courts, civil society, and sub-national actors in interpreting and enforcing these legal norms, especially in contexts of weak governance (Peel & Osofsky, 2018; Savaresi & Setzer, 2021).

Data sources include:

- Official reports from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and World Bank;
- Legal texts such as national constitutions, climate change legislation, and judicial rulings;
- Peer-reviewed journal articles and academic publications related to environmental law, climate policy, and development studies;
- NGO publications and civil society monitoring reports that document implementation gaps and community-level perspectives on climate governance.

Qualitative data from these documents were coded thematically and analyzed based on key categories such as legal reform, rule of law, climate adaptation, policy coherence, and institutional capacity. This coding allowed for the identification of recurring themes, divergences across jurisdictions, and potential legal innovations that could be scaled or adapted to other contexts.

This method is particularly suitable for addressing the research question: How can strengthening the rule of law through legal reform accelerate the achievement of SDG 13 in developing countries? By situating the inquiry within a normative legal framework while



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simultaneously engaging with policy analysis and empirical case studies, this methodology ensures both theoretical rigor and practical relevance. Moreover, the triangulation of legal texts, policy documents, and comparative analysis enhances the reliability and validity of the findings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Relationship Between Legal Reform and Climate Action

Effective climate action in the Global South is increasingly linked to the clarity and strength of a nation's legal framework. Legal reform has emerged not only as a procedural mechanism but also as a substantive foundation for the design and implementation of inclusive, equitable, and enforceable climate policies. Countries that have prioritized legal reforms centered on transparency, public participation, and ecological justice are demonstrably more capable of developing adaptive climate governance structures and ensuring compliance with both national and international obligations (Kotzé & du Plessis, 2020; UNEP, 2019).

In many developing countries, outdated environmental laws, fragmented regulatory bodies, and insufficient enforcement mechanisms have historically hampered climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. However, a new wave of legal reforms is reshaping this landscape. For instance, Kenya's 2016 Climate Change Act established a legal framework that integrates climate action into national development planning, mandates public consultation, and empowers the judiciary to hold institutions accountable (Odote, 2015). Similarly, Indonesia's Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021 on the economic value of carbon establishes a legal basis for carbon trading and outlines responsibilities across multiple sectors (Setiawan et al., 2022).

These legal innovations have resulted in greater policy coherence, inter-institutional coordination, and civil society engagement—key elements in building climate resilience. The embedding of environmental rights within constitutions and statutory frameworks enhances legal certainty, strengthens democratic accountability, and provides affected populations with avenues for redress and participation (Boyd, 2012; Savaresi & Setzer, 2021).

A comparative review of select countries in the Global South further illustrates this relationship. Table 1 below summarizes key legal reforms and their influence on climate governance performance.

Country	Key Legal Reform	Impact on Climate Action
Kenya	Climate Change Act (2016); Constitution of Kenya (Article 42 on Environment)	Strengthened public engagement, established National Climate Council
Indonesia	Presidential Regulation 98/2021; Law No. 32/2009 on Environmental Protection	Launched carbon market framework, clarified regulatory roles
Brazil	National Policy on Climate Change (Law No. 12.187/2009); Environmental Crimes Law	Enabled sectoral emission reduction plans; enforced penalties for deforestation
Colombia	Constitutional Court rulings recognizing Amazon protection as a constitutional right	Elevated ecological protection to constitutional status, enhancing legal remedies
South Africa	Climate Change Bill (2022, pending); Constitution with Bill of Rights on environment	Advanced climate mainstreaming in development planning; created environmental courts

Table 1. Legal Reform and Climate Action in Selected Global South Countries. (Sources: UNEP, 2022; World Bank, 2023; Savaresi & Setzer, 2021; Mwebaza & Mbeva, 2021)

Legal reforms that emphasize transparency—such as freedom of information laws or open climate budgeting—enable stakeholders to monitor policy implementation and hold governments accountable. For example, South Africa’s integrated environmental management approach under the National Environmental Management Act ensures that environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are open to public scrutiny (Du Plessis, 2018).

Equally important is the institutionalization of public participation in climate decision-making. In Brazil, the legal recognition of indigenous and traditional community rights has led to the development of participatory forest governance structures, directly influencing REDD+ policies (Barreto et al., 2017). Such inclusive processes not only improve the quality of decisions but also foster community ownership and long-term compliance.

The concept of ecological justice has become a normative compass for legal reform in several jurisdictions. This principle underscores the fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens across populations and generations. Judicial interventions, such as those seen in Colombia



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and India, have been pivotal in upholding ecological justice, often invoking intergenerational equity as a legal doctrine (Peel & Osofsky, 2018).

Nevertheless, challenges remain. Many countries still face capacity gaps within judicial institutions, lack of environmental expertise among law enforcement, and political resistance to reform. These constraints can dilute the transformative potential of legal innovations unless accompanied by institutional strengthening and long-term investment in legal education and environmental awareness (Cordonier Segger et al., 2017).

The relationship between legal reform and climate action in the Global South is both empirically supported and normatively compelling. Countries that have institutionalized environmental rights, clarified legal mandates, and fostered participatory governance are demonstrably more capable of meeting SDG 13 targets. Legal reform, when aligned with broader development strategies and international climate frameworks, provides a robust pathway toward resilient, inclusive, and accountable climate governance.

The Role of Rule of Law in Achieving SDG 13

The rule of law serves as a foundational pillar in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13), which urges nations to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. A strong rule of law ensures that climate policies are implemented within a framework of legality, transparency, predictability, and accountability. In the context of climate governance, the rule of law is not merely about legal compliance but encompasses the existence of fair, effective, and enforceable environmental legislation, empowered institutions, and accessible judicial mechanisms for redress (UNEP, 2019; Kotzé & du Plessis, 2020).

Countries that have embedded environmental protection and climate responsibilities within their constitutions and national legal systems tend to demonstrate more robust and coherent climate governance. Kenya offers a notable example. Article 42 of the Kenyan Constitution guarantees the right to a clean and healthy environment, which has enabled the judiciary and civil society to actively challenge environmental degradation and promote accountability (Odote, 2015). This constitutional commitment, reinforced by the 2016 Climate Change Act, has created a legal

framework that mandates integration of climate action across sectors and establishes a Climate Change Council tasked with monitoring implementation and compliance.

Indonesia has similarly demonstrated progress by reforming its legislative framework to align with climate targets. The enactment of Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021 on carbon pricing and emissions trading marked a significant step towards market-based environmental regulation. Additionally, the revision of Law No. 30/2007 on energy and Law No. 32/2009 on environmental protection reflects Indonesia's commitment to promoting renewable energy and curbing emissions through legal mechanisms (Setiawan et al., 2022).

In both cases, the rule of law has provided legal certainty, clarified institutional roles, and empowered civil society to participate meaningfully in climate governance. Moreover, judicial oversight—through constitutional or administrative courts—has proven vital in upholding environmental norms, addressing grievances, and ensuring that state actors comply with climate obligations. This legal infrastructure not only contributes to meeting international commitments such as the Paris Agreement but also protects marginalized communities often most vulnerable to climate impacts (Boyd, 2012; Peel & Osofsky, 2018).

Empirical studies have identified a positive correlation between the strength of the rule of law and environmental performance. Countries with stronger legal institutions, clearer regulatory frameworks, and independent judiciaries tend to perform better in implementing climate policies, reducing emissions, and achieving SDG 13 indicators (Savaresi & Setzer, 2021). Figure 1 below highlights this correlation by comparing selected Global South countries on the Rule of Law Index (World Justice Project) and their Climate Policy Implementation Score (based on Climate Action Tracker and UNEP reports).

Country	Rule of Law Score (WJP)	Climate Policy Implementation Score
Kenya	0.51	70%
Indonesia	0.52	68%
Brazil	0.50	61%
South Africa	0.59	74%
Nigeria	0.43	52%

Table 1. *Correlation Between Rule of Law and Climate Policy Implementation.* Sources: World Justice Project (2023); UNEP (2022); Climate Action Tracker (2023)

The chart demonstrates that countries with higher rule of law scores consistently exhibit stronger climate policy performance. While the correlation is not deterministic, it underscores the enabling role of legal institutions in advancing SDG 13. In countries with lower scores, weak legal enforcement and regulatory fragmentation often hinder effective climate response.

Despite these positive trends, challenges persist. In many developing nations, environmental laws remain under-enforced, judicial capacity is limited, and corruption undermines regulatory credibility. Furthermore, political interference in legal institutions can weaken environmental protections and delay the adoption of crucial climate legislation (Cordonier Segger et al., 2017).

To overcome these barriers, international support for legal capacity building, environmental law reform, and judicial training is essential. Strengthening the independence and competence of legal institutions will enable better climate-related adjudication and enhance access to justice for affected communities. Additionally, integrating human rights principles into environmental law—such as the rights to information, participation, and remedy—can deepen the democratic legitimacy of climate governance (Knox, 2018).

In conclusion, the rule of law is not only a vehicle for enforcing environmental regulations but also a normative and institutional framework that underpins effective climate governance. As demonstrated by Kenya and Indonesia, legal reform that strengthens rule of law principles—particularly transparency, participation, and accountability—significantly enhances a country's ability to meet its climate objectives. A strengthened rule of law is, therefore, indispensable to the realization of SDG 13 in the Global South.

Implementation Challenges in Developing Countries

While significant progress has been made in developing international climate frameworks and national policy commitments, developing countries continue to face profound implementation challenges. These challenges are multifaceted, ranging from legal and institutional constraints to socio-political and economic barriers. Despite the formal adoption of climate laws and the



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ratification of global agreements such as the Paris Agreement, the gap between policy and practice remains wide, particularly at sub-national and local levels (UNDP, 2020; World Bank, 2022).

One of the most persistent challenges is the limited availability of legal resources. Many countries in the Global South suffer from under-resourced legal systems, where ministries of environment are often poorly staffed, underfunded, and marginalized within broader governmental structures. These conditions severely hinder the capacity to draft, revise, and enforce comprehensive environmental regulations. Additionally, a lack of specialized legal expertise in climate change law, both in government and the judiciary, undermines the coherence and sophistication of national legal responses (Kotzé & du Plessis, 2020).

The weak enforcement of environmental law is another critical issue. Even where sound climate legislation exists, enforcement mechanisms are frequently ineffective due to corruption, lack of political will, and institutional fragmentation. In many countries, environmental violations go unpunished or are resolved through informal means, diluting the deterrent effect of environmental regulations (Savaresi & Setzer, 2021). Furthermore, the judiciary may lack independence or training in environmental jurisprudence, limiting the ability of courts to uphold climate obligations (Boyd, 2012).

Another major obstacle is the conflict between economic regulation and ecological protection. Many developing nations are still heavily dependent on extractive industries, including mining, logging, and fossil fuel production, which generate significant state revenue but cause substantial environmental harm. Economic policies that prioritize short-term growth often conflict with environmental protection goals, creating legal contradictions between ministries (e.g., finance vs. environment) and resulting in policy incoherence (Barreto et al., 2017). For instance, land-use regulations intended to promote agricultural expansion or infrastructure development may undermine conservation laws or emissions targets.

In addition, there exists a significant implementation gap between national climate policy and local action. While national governments may develop ambitious climate strategies, local authorities often lack the mandate, capacity, or resources to operationalize them. This



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misalignment is particularly pronounced in decentralized governance systems where legal responsibilities are poorly distributed across governance tiers. Moreover, local communities may be excluded from policy planning processes, resulting in a lack of ownership, weak accountability, and eventual non-compliance (Mbeva & Nakhooda, 2018).

Category	Key Issues
Legal Capacity	Lack of legal professionals trained in climate/environmental law
Institutional Gaps	Fragmented authority, overlap between ministries, weak environmental agencies
Enforcement Mechanisms	Poor monitoring, low sanctions, informal conflict resolution
Policy Coherence	Contradictions between development and environmental goals
Decentralization	Uneven capacities at sub-national levels, lack of coordination

Table 3. *Structural Barriers to Climate Law Implementation in Developing Countries* (Sources: UNEP, 2019; World Bank, 2022)

Another factor contributing to implementation difficulties is the absence of inclusive governance mechanisms. Marginalized communities, particularly indigenous peoples and women, are frequently excluded from climate decision-making despite being disproportionately affected by climate impacts. Their exclusion limits the contextual relevance of climate strategies and undermines social legitimacy, leading to policy resistance or failure (Knox, 2018; UN Women, 2021).

The lack of climate finance and technical support exacerbates these challenges. While international funds such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) offer support, many developing countries struggle to meet eligibility criteria or manage the reporting requirements. This limits their ability to build climate-resilient infrastructure or adopt innovative legal and technological solutions (Cordonier Segger et al., 2017).

To overcome these obstacles, developing countries require targeted capacity-building programmes, enhanced inter-ministerial coordination, and reforms that align economic development with climate justice. International institutions must also provide more context-sensitive legal and technical support, especially in designing and implementing laws that work effectively at both national and local levels.



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Policy Implications of Legal Reform in Advancing Climate Action

The policy implications of legal reform in the context of climate governance are far-reaching, particularly for developing countries striving to meet their obligations under Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13). A coordinated approach that aligns legal reform with sustainable development priorities offers a strategic pathway for unlocking international climate finance, accelerating green technology adoption, and enhancing public participation grounded in the principles of climate justice.

Harmonizing legal reform with the sustainable development agenda can improve a country's eligibility for international support mechanisms. Climate finance initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund require not only technical project proposals but also robust legal and governance frameworks to ensure transparency, accountability, and enforceability (UNFCCC, 2021). Countries that demonstrate legal clarity and institutional readiness are more likely to attract funding for renewable energy projects, climate-resilient infrastructure, and ecosystem restoration (World Bank, 2022). For example, Kenya's Climate Change Act has been instrumental in mobilizing international partnerships and accessing performance-based funding tied to climate mitigation and adaptation (Odote, 2015).

Legal reform plays a critical role in facilitating green technology transfer and innovation. Regulatory instruments such as carbon pricing laws, intellectual property protection, and environmental impact assessments can incentivize private investment in clean energy technologies while safeguarding environmental and community interests (Cordonier Segger et al., 2017). Indonesia's evolving legal framework for carbon markets and low-carbon development—anchored by Presidential Regulation No. 98/2021—has created opportunities for the integration of international standards, technical collaboration, and private sector engagement in climate action (Setiawan et al., 2022).

Legal reform enables inclusive governance structures that institutionalize community participation in climate decision-making. Incorporating procedural rights such as access to information, public consultation, and legal remedy into national climate laws ensures that local



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voices, especially from vulnerable and indigenous communities, are not marginalized (Boyd, 2012; Knox, 2018). This enhances the social legitimacy and long-term effectiveness of climate policies, making them more responsive to the lived realities of climate-affected populations. In Latin America, for example, the Escazú Agreement has been a pioneering regional treaty that links environmental democracy to human rights, establishing binding legal obligations for participatory environmental governance (Savaresi & Setzer, 2021).

For legal reform to become a truly transformative tool, there must be effective synchronization between global legal norms and localized implementation. International treaties such as the Paris Agreement establish guiding principles and common objectives, but their success depends on context-sensitive national legislation that reflects local ecological, socio-economic, and cultural realities (Bodansky et al., 2017). Top-down imposition of environmental laws without adequate stakeholder consultation or adaptation often leads to non-compliance, legal uncertainty, or resistance at the community level (Mbeva & Nakhooda, 2018).

Legal localization the process of adapting international legal standards to local legal traditions, governance structures, and societal needs must be prioritized. This requires legal pluralism, capacity-building, and inter-sectoral policy coherence across ministries of environment, finance, justice, and local government (Kotzé & du Plessis, 2020). By doing so, legal systems in the Global South can better navigate the complex trade-offs between development and environmental protection.

Legal reform serves as both an enabler and safeguard for climate action. When aligned with sustainable development goals, it can attract international resources, promote green innovation, and empower marginalized communities. However, to unlock its full transformative potential, legal reform must be strategically designed, locally anchored, and globally coherent. Policymakers must thus view the law not merely as a regulatory constraint but as a dynamic and participatory mechanism for climate resilience, justice, and long-term sustainability.

CONCLUSION



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Legal reform plays a central and strategic role in supporting the implementation of climate action across developing countries. As the climate crisis intensifies, particularly in the Global South, the strengthening of the rule of law emerges not merely as a procedural necessity, but as a transformative foundation for building resilient, inclusive, and accountable climate governance systems. When embedded within a strong legal framework, climate policies are more likely to be legitimate, enforceable, and responsive to both national priorities and international obligations. In this way, the law becomes a catalyst for aligning environmental integrity with social equity and economic sustainability. The reinforcement of legal systems enhances the effectiveness, transparency, and credibility of climate governance by clarifying institutional mandates, ensuring public participation, and facilitating judicial oversight. Constitutional environmental rights, climate-specific legislation, and legal mechanisms for redress empower communities to actively engage in climate action while holding governments and corporations accountable. Moreover, legal clarity and institutional coherence also serve as critical enablers for accessing climate finance, promoting green technology adoption, and implementing nature-based solutions at scale.

To accelerate progress towards SDG 13 (Climate Action), developing countries must adopt holistic, inclusive, and adaptive legal approaches that reflect both global climate norms and local realities. Legal reform should not be treated as a one-time technical intervention, but rather as a dynamic and iterative process that evolves with scientific insights, community needs, and global developments. Importantly, there must be greater coordination between national policies and international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement to ensure coherence and consistency. Ultimately, countries in the Global South must continue to prioritize legal reform as a primary strategy to bridge the persistent gap between climate commitments and implementation on the ground. Only through rights-based, well-governed, and participatory legal systems can climate justice and sustainable development be realized in an equitable and enduring manner.

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