

THEORY OF CHANGE

All Rise works from a clear understanding of how legal action translates into lasting environmental and social change. This page sets out that logic — the problems we start from, what we bring to the work, how we work, and the change we believe is possible.

THE PROBLEM CONTEXT

In KwaZulu-Natal and throughout Southern Africa, communities most affected by environmental degradation have the least access to legal remedy. Across the region's diverse biomes, ecosystems and biodiversity face growing pressure from extractive industries, with cascading impacts on cultural systems, economies, human health and wellbeing, while weak governance and enforcement undermine regulatory frameworks intended to protect these interconnected systems and associated human rights.

EXTRACTIVE PRESSURE Biodiversity and ecosystems under accelerating threat from fossil fuel and mineral extraction, flawed EIA processes, and climate change.	THE ACCESS GAP Communities most harmed have least access to legal remedy — those on the frontlines of environmental harm cannot afford the attorneys they need.
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UNDERLYING ASSUMPTIONS

WE PROCEED ON THE BASIS THAT

- Law is a living tool that can be placed in the hands of communities — not only wielded by the powerful.
- Change happens through sustained partnership, not only case-by-case intervention.
- Communities with legal knowledge and support can become agents of environmental protection in their own right.
- Strategic litigation, combined with capacity building and law reform, can shift the conditions under which harmful decisions are made.
- Natural ecosystems and human well-being are interdependent — environmental justice and social justice cannot be separated.

WHAT WE BRING, AND HOW WE WORK

All Rise brings specialist legal expertise to the places it is most needed, operating through three interlocking modes of action.

WHAT WE BRING Activist legal expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate, environmental, marine and biodiversity law• Pro bono accredited law clinic• Gender and language inclusive approach• All-women team and board	HOW WE APPROACH THE WORK Movement lawyering <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Starting with community need• Building through sustained partnership• Applied across KwaZulu-Natal and Southern Africa
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PROTECT

EMPOWER

Capacity & tools

ADVANCE

Law reform & policy