



How 2...

...COLLECT PHOTO & VIDEO EVIDENCE...

In this sheet we introduce the importance of collecting evidence in preparation for environmental justice.

Sometimes there is a need to take legal action. The collection of evidence in environmental justice cases is of paramount importance. The court system is a creature of evidence, which means that every allegation that is made must be supported by evidence. The process of collecting evidence does not begin once court proceedings have been launched; it is a process that must begin from the moment that issues arise. If evidence is properly collected, it makes negotiation and court processes easier.

The best ways for collecting evidence are:

1. *Photographs*

It is important to take photographs of the issues that the community is or might be facing. Photographs should also be taken on a regular basis i.e. daily, weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Communities should try to take photographs of the following:

- Any visible pollution (this may include air, water, soil or plant degradation) that comes from the activities by the individual or the corporation;
- Damage to property caused by an individual or corporation (for example mining activities);
- New developments built by an individual or corporation.

2. *Videos*

In certain instances, it would be difficult for communities to show how specific activities negatively affect their daily lives without showing real video footage. The following are examples of issues that communities should take videos of:

- Drilling;
- Noise pollution;
- Air pollution;
- Biodiversity degradation;
- Water pollution;
- Soil pollution.



TIPS

When taking photographs/videos it is important to ensure that the photographs/videos are of such a nature that they can be used as evidence in court. The following tips should be considered:

- Photographs and videos should be clear not blurry;
- The person taking the photograph/video can use an item such as a newspaper in the clip to show the date;
- Cell phone technology also records the time and date as well as the location where a photo or video was taken if the correct settings are on;
- Records should be kept of when the photograph/video was taken, what time the /video was taken, where the photograph/video was taken and who took the photograph/video.

Please note that this is part 1 of a 2 part series. Part 2 will deal with the laws that must be taken into consideration when collecting photo and video evidence.

USAID: RESILIM O

USAID's Resilience in the Limpopo River Basin (RESILIM) program addresses ongoing degradation in the Limpopo River Basin in southern Africa, where people face water shortages, increased floods, and declines in crop productivity as climate change further stresses an already water limited region.

The USAID's RESILIM-O focusses on the Olifants catchment. The program aims to reduce the vulnerability of people and ecosystems in the Olifants Catchment specifically, by improving how transboundary natural resources are managed. By understanding the systemic causes of vulnerability, including climate vulnerability, it is promoting new ways of thinking and acting to promote integrated water and biodiversity management.

ABOUT THE LEGAL RESOURCE CENTRE

ABOUT AWARD

At AWARD, we recognize that the natural world's resources are limited and undergoing rapid depletion and transformation. We know current practices of use and management are inadequate to deal with the changes and challenges we are facing. We design practical interventions

to address the vulnerability of people and ecosystems, and merge considerations from both environmental and social perspectives. Our approach involves thinking across disciplines, boundaries and systems.

We are working with diverse people and institutions in the water and biodiversity sectors in the Olifants River Catchment to understand the multiple vulnerabilities to change, including climate change. Along with quality scientific contributions, our engagement in the socio-political context of the Olifants River Catchment allows us begin to institutionalize integrated, resilience-based practices, providing a foundation for robust development policy and practice in the in this river catchment, and beyond.

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