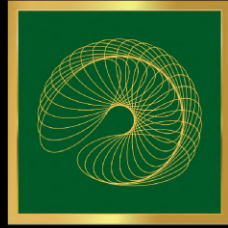


SUSTAINABILITY



SIMPLIFIED

LOPES ATTORNEYS INC

Safeguarding Tomorrow
An Environmental Law Profile



Sustainability
Simplified

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., we view environmental law as both a legal duty and a constitutional imperative. South Africa's landscapes are rich in natural resources, from its national parks and biodiversity reserves to its mineral wealth, water systems, and energy networks. Yet these same resources face mounting pressures from mining, industrialisation, pollution, and the growing demands of electricity and nuclear development.

Our role is to stand as a legal guardian for both people and the planet. We have worked on matters involving biodiversity permitting, sustainable mining practices, water use licensing, air quality regulation, and litigation to combat pollution and harmful environmental practices. We have also advised on energy projects, from electricity regulation to nuclear compliance, ensuring that development is both lawful and responsible.

Our commitment extends to defending South Africa's protected areas, including its national parks, where conservation and governance must be strengthened to preserve irreplaceable ecosystems. Through strategic litigation, regulatory guidance, and compliance support, we ensure that the law is a powerful instrument to balance economic growth with environmental sustainability.



CEO & EQUITY PRINCIPAL



OUR VALUES

- **Environmental Stewardship:** We prioritise the protection of South Africa's biodiversity, national parks, and ecosystems while ensuring that development projects, from mining to energy, are aligned with sustainable principles.
- **Accountability and Integrity:** We hold ourselves, our clients, and regulators to the highest standards of legal compliance, whether in relation to pollution control, nuclear safety, or water and air quality licensing.
- **Collaboration for Impact:** We work with industry, NGOs, civil society, and government to address challenges across sectors such as mining, energy, and conservation, ensuring practical solutions with long-term impact.
- **Future-Focused Justice:** We are dedicated to shaping legal frameworks that anticipate tomorrow's challenges, from climate change and water scarcity to responsible electricity generation and nuclear oversight.



WHO WE ARE

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., a proudly Level 2 B-BBE firm, we are deeply committed to safeguarding South Africa's environment through the power of law. Our work is rooted in the constitutional right to an environment that is not harmful to health or wellbeing and in the duty to protect ecosystems for future generations.

We advise and represent clients across industries, civil society, and government in navigating South Africa's complex environmental regulatory framework. Our expertise spans mining law, ensuring compliance with sustainable mining practices and mitigating environmental harm caused by extractive industries. We are experienced in securing and challenging water use licenses, advocating for the fair and responsible use of one of South Africa's most precious resources.

Our firm also works extensively on air quality and pollution control, holding industries accountable for emissions, waste management, and regulatory compliance to safeguard both human health and ecological integrity. In the energy sector, we provide counsel on electricity law and nuclear regulation, ensuring that projects meet strict legal and safety standards while balancing the country's urgent need for energy security with environmental responsibility.

Importantly, we have stood firm in matters concerning South Africa's national parks and protected areas, challenging unlawful developments, unethical practices, and threats to biodiversity. From biodiversity permitting to litigation on pollution and conservation, we aim to ensure that these irreplaceable natural assets remain protected for generations to come.

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., our identity is built on a belief that environmental law is not only about regulation, but about justice. Justice for communities who rely on natural resources, justice for ecosystems under pressure, and justice for future generations who deserve a sustainable and thriving South Africa.



KEY SERVICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

At Lopes Attorneys Inc., our environmental law practice covers the full spectrum of compliance, advisory, and litigation services. We assist clients across industries, from mining and energy to conservation and civil society, with tailored solutions that protect the environment while ensuring regulatory compliance.

Mining and Extractive Industries:

- Advising on compliance with the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) and related environmental legislation.
- Challenging or defending mining rights and licenses in line with environmental obligations.
- Mitigating the environmental impact of mining operations, including rehabilitation plans, water use, and biodiversity concerns.
- Representing communities, NGOs, and companies in disputes over mining projects that threaten ecosystems or local livelihoods.

Water Licensing and Resource Management:

- Assisting with applications, renewals, and appeals for water use licenses under the National Water Act.
- Advising on compliance with water-use restrictions, pollution control, and effluent discharge standards.
- Representing clients in disputes regarding unlawful water use or pollution affecting rivers, wetlands, and groundwater resources.

Air Quality and Pollution Control:

- Advising industries on compliance with the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act and related emissions regulations.
- Challenging unlawful or harmful emission licenses and permits.
- Representing affected communities in cases of industrial air pollution or hazardous emissions.
- Legal strategies for holding polluters accountable and ensuring remediation of environmental harm.



KEY SERVICES IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Energy, Electricity, and Nuclear Law:

- Advising on environmental approvals for renewable energy projects and independent power producers.
- Legal compliance for electricity generation, transmission, and distribution projects, ensuring adherence to environmental and safety laws.
- Regulatory guidance on nuclear projects, including compliance with the National Nuclear Regulator Act.
- Resolving disputes between energy developers, regulators, and stakeholders regarding environmental impacts.

Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation:

- Advising on compliance with biodiversity permitting and conservation legislation for projects in national parks and protected areas.
- Challenging unlawful developments or permits threatening endangered species or ecologically sensitive areas.
- Representing NGOs, communities, and conservation bodies in litigation aimed at safeguarding biodiversity.
- Drafting and reviewing agreements to support sustainable tourism and conservation initiatives.

Pollution and Waste Management:

- Ensuring compliance with the National Environmental Management: Waste Act and hazardous waste disposal regulations.
- Legal representation in cases of land, water, or air pollution caused by industrial or municipal actors.
- Drafting compliance frameworks for corporations to meet pollution control and waste management requirements.
- Litigating to prevent environmental degradation and enforce environmental rehabilitation.



TRACK RECORD & CASE HIGHLIGHTS

At Lopes Attorneys Inc, we have successfully advised, represented, and partnered with some of the country's leading animal welfare organisations on precedent-setting and ethically urgent matters. Our legal team brings a rare blend of regulatory insight, litigation strategy, and unwavering commitment to the humane treatment of all animals.

Each matter we undertake reflects our mission: to protect the voiceless through robust, principled legal advocacy.

ENDING PRIMATE TESTING AT A MAJOR SOUTH AFRICAN UNIVERSITY

Our firm played a key advisory role in halting non-human primate testing conducted at a leading academic institution. Through strategic legal submissions and ethical argumentation, we supported one of South Africa's largest animal welfare organisations in securing a university-wide shift toward non-invasive research methods. This landmark intervention reaffirmed the role of legal pressure in advancing ethical science.

PERMITTING AND COMPLIANCE FOR THREATENED SPECIES

We provide ongoing legal support to international clients importing and managing TOPS-listed species within South Africa. Our work ensures that the welfare of each animal is prioritised within a strictly compliant, transparent, and enforceable framework: from import permits and welfare standards to ongoing regulatory communication with government authorities.

ANIMAL WELFARE IN STATE OVERSIGHT

We have been involved in reviewing and challenging state failures to meet constitutional and statutory obligations in relation to animal welfare. These matters include legal actions ensuring that municipal and national bodies uphold their responsibilities to consult with stakeholders, enforce humane treatment laws, and embed animal protection into service delivery planning.



TRACK RECORD & CASE HIGHLIGHTS

CHALLENGING HARMFUL TESTING AND PRACTICES

Our litigation team has assisted in preparing urgent legal strategies against entities engaging in unethical testing practices on animals, working swiftly with NGOs to protect animal lives, raise public awareness, and ensure regulatory enforcement. These interventions are often time-sensitive and require meticulous legal work and coordinated stakeholder engagements.

POLICY REVIEW AND ADVOCACY SUPPORT

Lopes Attorneys Inc has supported clients in drafting submissions for new legislative frameworks impacting animal welfare and animal wellbeing, including areas such as captive wildlife regulations, exotic animal ownership, and live animal trade. Our role often includes legal research, public commentary drafting, and liaising with regulatory stakeholders to advance rights-based animal protection.



WHY WORK WITH US

Choosing the right legal partner in environmental matters is not just about compliance; it's about securing trusted guidance in a field that directly impacts business sustainability, community well-being, and the preservation of our natural resources. At Lopes Attorneys Inc., we combine deep legal expertise with a strong commitment to environmental stewardship, offering clients the insight and strategic support they need to navigate South Africa's complex environmental landscape.

SPECIALISED EXPERTISE

Environmental law in South Africa is highly technical and continuously evolving. From mining rights and water-use licensing to air quality, energy, and biodiversity protection, our team has the expertise to guide clients through complex regulatory frameworks.

STRATEGIC AND PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

We understand that environmental compliance is not only a legal necessity but also a business imperative. Our approach balances strict legal obligations with practical, forward-looking solutions that support operational efficiency and long-term sustainability.

PROVEN IMPACT

Our firm has acted in matters that shape environmental governance in South Africa, from litigating against unlawful pollution practices to advising on nuclear and electricity regulation. Our track record demonstrates both legal excellence and measurable outcomes.

COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

We are deeply committed to safeguarding South Africa's natural heritage. Partnering with us means aligning your organisation with a firm that views environmental protection not only as law but as a responsibility to future generations.



MEET OUR TEAM

Behind our environmental law practice is a multidisciplinary team of attorneys who combine technical expertise with a passion for sustainability. Each member brings unique experience in areas such as mining, pollution control, biodiversity, renewable energy, and regulatory compliance. Together, we offer clients both strategic insight and practical solutions, ensuring every matter is handled with precision and care.



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CONTACT US

Your environmental challenges deserve proactive, informed legal support. Whether you are a business navigating complex compliance frameworks, an NGO driving accountability, or a stakeholder protecting natural resources, our team is ready to assist. Reach out to Lopes Attorneys Inc. to partner with us in advancing responsible and sustainable environmental practices.

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