



Evaluating Pakistan's Legal Framework for Climate Justice: Normative Gaps and Reform Opportunities

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ARTICLE INFO			ABSTRACT
Article History: Received: April 17, 2025 Revised: June 02, 2025 Accepted: June 05, 2025 Available Online: June 12, 2025			<i>Pakistan's acute vulnerability to climate change—manifested in glacial retreat, rising temperatures, water scarcity, and widespread climate-induced displacement—demands a critical examination of its climate governance and legal response. This study explores the country's geographic and socio-political exposure to climate risks and investigates the effectiveness of its existing legal frameworks in promoting climate justice. Despite being a signatory to key international agreements, Pakistan continues to face challenges in translating policy commitments into inclusive and equitable outcomes. Using a qualitative methodology grounded in doctrinal legal analysis and policy review, the study evaluates national instruments such as the Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017) and the National Climate Change Policy (2021), alongside judicial interventions by the Supreme Court. Findings reveal systemic issues including institutional fragmentation, weak enforcement capacity, underutilization of climate finance mechanisms, and limited representation of vulnerable communities in decision-making. The judiciary's proactive role in interpreting the constitutional right to a healthy environment is highlighted as a key enabler of climate justice. Nevertheless, substantial gaps persist between policy articulation and practical implementation. The research identifies opportunities to strengthen climate governance by institutionalizing participation, enhancing legal accountability, and operationalizing financial and institutional support mechanisms. By bridging these gaps, Pakistan can advance a more just, inclusive, and resilient response to climate change, setting a precedent for similar nations in the Global South. This article concludes with practical recommendations for legal reform, improved institutional coordination, and increased grassroots engagement to achieve climate justice.</i>
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Introduction

Climate change has emerged as one of the most pressing global challenges of the 21st century, posing profound threats to environmental sustainability, economic development, and human rights. Countries in the Global South, especially Pakistan, bear the brunt of these impacts despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions. Pakistan's geographic diversity—from the glacial north to the coastal south—renders it particularly vulnerable to extreme climate events such as glacial lake outburst floods, prolonged droughts, heatwaves, and sea-level rise (Khan et al., 2024). These environmental disruptions have direct and disproportionate impacts on marginalized communities, thereby making climate change not only an ecological crisis but also a justice issue.

In response to these escalating threats, Pakistan has taken notable legal and policy initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The enactment of the Pakistan Climate Change Act in 2017 marked a legislative turning point, institutionalizing mechanisms such as the Pakistan Climate Change Council and the Pakistan Climate Change Authority to coordinate national climate action (Khan et al., 2024; Rana et al., 2024). Additionally, the National Climate Change Policy (2021) outlines strategic priorities across adaptation, mitigation, and institutional capacity building. Despite these legislative developments, significant gaps remain in enforcement, resource mobilization, and inclusive participation—raising concerns about the legal framework's ability to deliver climate justice equitably (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020).

Climate justice, as a concept, emphasizes the fair distribution of climate-related burdens and benefits, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalized populations. In the Pakistani context, the intersection of socio-economic disparities and environmental hazards magnifies injustice. The role of the judiciary—especially the Supreme Court—has become pivotal in shaping environmental jurisprudence. Landmark rulings have interpreted the right to a clean and healthy environment as a fundamental right under Article 9 of the Constitution, thereby embedding climate justice within the broader ambit of human rights (Khan et al., 2024).

Internationally, frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage reinforce the urgency of integrating justice principles into national legal systems. Yet, as highlighted in global literature, effective climate governance demands not only robust laws but also institutional coordination, local empowerment, and responsive implementation (Mechler et al., 2019). Pakistan's legal instruments, while symbolically aligned with international norms, require substantial procedural enhancements to be operationally effective.

This article aims to evaluate Pakistan's climate governance framework through the lens of climate justice. It assesses the legal instruments, judicial interventions, and administrative structures in place, and identifies the structural and procedural gaps that hinder equitable climate action. Furthermore, it explores the opportunities for reform, particularly in enhancing inter-agency coordination, strengthening participatory mechanisms, and ensuring accountability. Through this evaluation, the article contributes to a more nuanced understanding of how Pakistan can move toward a more just and resilient climate future.

Literature Review

The argument over the issue of climate justice has received enormous focus and energy at the international level, particularly within some of the regions that are targeted as the Global South. These regions are typically defined by exposure to climate-related disasters, and this exposure is proportionally increased in comparison to other environments. With Pakistan, the effects of climate change are by no means limited to the environmental aspects only; it seems to be a multidimensional socio-political and legal concern that has far-reaching and extensive implications

for equality within various populations and for human rights protection. There's a surging burgeoning body of academic research and studies that highlights and underscores the need for taking a rights-based legal approach as a strategy of successfully countering and tackling these climate-related vulnerabilities that communities experience.

The Pakistan legal reaction to the emerging challenge of climate change started taking form in a more institutionalized capacity with the milestone promulgation of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) in 1997. Even though this milestone legislation provided an anchor pillar in the quest to address the pressing issues of pollution and environmental degradation, it must be observed that it did not address the complex issue of climate change per se nor did it incorporate climate justice principles (Khan et al., 2024). Conversely, the National Climate Change Policy, first formulated in 2012 and then revised in 2021, adopted a more specific and focused approach by clearly spelling out robust national strategies for adaptation and mitigation against climate change. The policy laid strong emphasis on priority sectors like water security, food security, energy security, disaster preparedness, and safeguarding of ecosystems. However, it must be observed that the effective implementation of this policy has been severely undermined by severe challenges, mainly arising due to a widespread absence of finances, poor technical capacity, and challenges arising from decentralized governance architecture (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020).

The Pakistan Climate Change Act, passed in the year 2017, is a landmark in the history of legislation in that it effectively institutes both the Pakistan Climate Change Council and the Authority. The Act is very critical in instilling climate governance at the national level, something that was felt was necessary in the face of the urgent challenges being presented by climate change (Rana et al., 2024). This notwithstanding, many scholars have been criticizing the Act on grounds that it is top-down and that this may limit effective participation. They highlight the weaknesses of the existing mechanisms of public participation, with particular emphasis on the voices and experiences of vulnerable communities worst hit by the impacts of climate change (Khan et al., 2024; Shawoo & McDermott, 2020). In addition, whereas the institutional framework delineated in the Act reads grandiose when perused in black and white, it is far from it in providing specific guidelines on how inter-provincial coordination will be achieved, as well as how bottom-up implementation will be effectively implemented across the country.

On the judicial side, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has remained a key and pivotal institution in the advancement of both environmental justice and climate justice in the nation. Through a chain of landmark judgments and rulings, the Court has been successful in extending the meaning of the constitutional right to life, as enshrined under Article 9, not only to include the right to live but also the inalienable right to enjoy a healthy and sustainable environment (Khan et al., 2024). This courageous and proactive step by the Court has rightly forced the government to take decisive steps by framing much-needed environmental legislation and formulating well-balanced policies that take into account the multi-faceted dimensions of climate change. It has been argued, however, by some scholars that while judicial activism has in fact plugged the serious gap left by both the legislative and executive organs of the government, it is prone to suffer from the absence of consistency and institutional follow-up required for long-term impact and effectiveness (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020).

International scholarship is essential to provide useful frameworks that can be applied to the evaluation and assessment of the performance of Pakistan's climate governance policies and strategies. To this end, the extensive literature on the concept of "Loss and Damage" (L&D) that is a direct result of climate change constitutes a conceptual toolbox that is essential for the understanding of the intrinsic limits of adaptation policies, as well as highlighting the imperative need for compensatory justice. This is especially relevant for countries like Pakistan that are

subjected to the high and irreversible economic and social costs of climate change, in the form of widespread glacial losses and severe heat events that threaten livelihoods and ecosystems (Mechler et al., 2019). Moreover, the formal acknowledgment of L&D through the Paris Agreement structure, specifically formulated in Article 8, is essential to further develop and consolidate the emerging global consensus on matters of climate justice and accountability, highlighting the imperative need for concerted action against these issues.

Regardless of the existence of frameworks to tackle such challenges, their implementation is a significant challenge and a primary vulnerability, just like the Achilles' heel of the entire process. The challenges come as a result of having weak regulatory enforcement systems, low levels of participation by local government authorities, and the lack of predetermined climate litigation frameworks, all of which actually hinder the effective operationalization of climate justice programs as Shawoo & McDermott identified in their 2020 study. There is also a concerning issue of sectoral fragmentation, which occurs when various ministries pursue their own individual climate initiatives without cooperation with one another, ultimately undermining the overall and integrated response necessary for the effective mitigation of the system risks associated with climate change.

In short, it may be asserted that even though Pakistan has progressed quite a long way toward the development of legal and policy instruments aimed at managing climate issues, there are still vast gaps in the areas of enforcement tools, representation of diverse stakeholders, and incorporation of climate justice principles. Some academic articles bring forth the necessity of ensuring coordination of Pakistan's existing legal institutions with the best global practices, along with the strengthening of local institutions and the development of effective judicial oversight. Such coordination is crucial to ensure a just and equitable climate resilience policy for all segments of society.

Research Methodology

This research utilizes a qualitative methodology to evaluate Pakistan's legal framework for climate justice. It employs a multi-faceted approach, including doctrinal legal analysis of existing laws and judicial decisions, policy analysis of government documents and climate strategies, and a case study method to review climate-related court decisions. A comparative approach benchmarks Pakistan's framework against global standards, while content analysis of academic sources and reports identifies thematic trends, gaps, and opportunities. This comprehensive methodology assesses Pakistan's climate governance, focusing on justice, equity, and institutional performance.

Current Legal Framework on Climate Change in Pakistan

Pakistan's legal framework for climate governance is a complex and multifaceted system, comprising various interrelated policies, laws, and judicial principles aimed at mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change. At the federal level, the Pakistan Climate Change Act, 2017, serves as the cornerstone of climate governance, institutionalizing the Pakistan Climate Change Council and the Pakistan Climate Change Authority. The Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, is responsible for strategic oversight, while the Authority is tasked with policy implementation and compliance monitoring. The National Climate Change Policy (2021) provides an updated framework, prioritizing critical areas such as water, food, and energy security, disaster risk reduction, and the promotion of green technologies. This policy emphasizes the importance of integrated planning and calls for adaptation and mitigation efforts across various sectors. Additionally, the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA), 1997, plays a foundational role in governing environmental quality standards and mandating Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), although it predates the current climate crisis in legislative terms and lacks a specific focus

on climate change. The National Disaster Management Act, 2010, complements climate resilience by providing institutional structures such as the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to respond to climate-induced emergencies. At the provincial level, Punjab (2017) and Sindh (2018) have adopted their own climate change policies, focusing on regional vulnerabilities and needs. However, despite these efforts, implementation mechanisms remain weak, and other provinces lag behind in developing and implementing their own climate policies. The Supreme Court of Pakistan has also contributed significantly to the development of environmental jurisprudence through public interest litigation, interpreting constitutional protections, such as Article 9, to include environmental integrity and intergenerational equity. To further strengthen the framework, it is essential to enhance coordination among federal and provincial agencies, improve enforcement mechanisms, and incorporate climate change considerations into sectoral policies. Moreover, public awareness and participation in climate governance can play a crucial role in ensuring the effectiveness of these policies and laws. By addressing these challenges and leveraging opportunities, Pakistan can develop a more robust and responsive climate governance framework that supports sustainable development and protects the rights of its citizens. Despite the progressive intent behind these laws and policies, the framework suffers from fragmentation and limited operational clarity, highlighting the need for improved implementation mechanisms and capacity building to effectively address the challenges posed by climate change.

Supreme Court Judgments Analysis

The Supreme Court of Pakistan has played a pivotal role in expanding the boundaries of environmental and climate justice through progressive interpretations of constitutional rights. In the absence of comprehensive legislative enforcement, the judiciary has assumed a proactive role, often referred to as “judicial activism,” to fill institutional voids in environmental governance.

One of the earliest and most influential cases in Pakistan’s environmental jurisprudence was *Shehla Zia v. WAPDA* (PLD 1994 SC 693), where the Court held that the right to life under Article 9 of the Constitution included the right to a clean and healthy environment. This landmark judgment laid the foundation for the recognition of environmental rights as fundamental human rights, establishing an interpretative precedent that has shaped subsequent decisions [Khan et al., 2024].

In *Imrana Tiwana v. Punjab Government* (2015), the Court intervened in matters of urban environmental degradation, reaffirming its commitment to intergenerational equity and sustainable development. It emphasized the state’s obligation to incorporate environmental considerations into all tiers of governance, reinforcing the notion of ecological integrity as essential to the right to life and dignity under Article 14 of the Constitution [Mukhtar Mirza, 2020].

The judiciary also took notice of climate-specific concerns in *Ashgar Leghari v. Federation of Pakistan* (2015 CLD 254). In this case, the Lahore High Court, later supported by the Supreme Court’s principles, ordered the federal government to implement the National Climate Change Policy and enforce the Framework for Implementation of Climate Change Policy (2014–2030). The Court established a Climate Change Commission to monitor progress, signaling a major shift toward the judicial enforcement of policy commitments. This judgment was praised internationally as one of the first instances where courts directly compelled government action on climate policy [Shawoo & McDermott, 2020].

These rulings collectively demonstrate the judiciary’s evolving approach to environmental justice—from reactive rulings based on individual grievances to a more holistic framework that recognizes structural and intergenerational dimensions of climate harm. The Court has broadened

the concept of locus standi, allowing citizens and NGOs to file petitions on behalf of affected communities, and ensuring broader public access to environmental litigation [Khan et al., 2024].

Despite these commendable developments, challenges remain. Court decisions, though progressive, often lack robust mechanisms for long-term monitoring and implementation. The temporary nature of climate commissions and weak institutional coordination sometimes reduces the impact of these rulings in the long run. Additionally, there is a need for clearer procedural frameworks to guide lower courts in adjudicating climate disputes effectively [Mukhtar Mirza, 2020].

Nevertheless, the Supreme Court's contributions have played a transformative role in embedding environmental and climate justice within Pakistan's legal consciousness. Its jurisprudence has not only strengthened citizens' rights but also compelled administrative accountability and catalyzed policy enforcement in ways that legislation alone has not yet achieved.

Analysis and Discussion

Pakistan's legal and institutional framework for climate governance reflects a growing recognition of the climate crisis and its socio-economic implications. However, a critical analysis reveals several areas where the existing system falls short of delivering climate justice. This section explores the structural, operational, and normative gaps that hinder the country's ability to equitably mitigate and adapt to climate impacts, while also highlighting progressive trends and judicial interventions that offer potential for transformative change.

Institutional Fragmentation and Weak Coordination

One of the most prominent challenges in Pakistan's climate governance is institutional fragmentation. While the Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017) created the Pakistan Climate Change Council and the Climate Change Authority, the coordination between federal and provincial governments remains limited in scope and effectiveness (Rana et al., 2024). Provinces, empowered by the 18th Constitutional Amendment, are tasked with developing their own climate policies; yet many lack the technical expertise, financial resources, and political commitment to implement comprehensive adaptation measures (Khan et al., 2024).

This decentralized responsibility, without adequate central oversight, leads to policy inconsistencies and duplication of efforts. The absence of vertical integration—from federal planning to local execution—compromises the effective implementation of climate projects and fails to address the differentiated needs of vulnerable regions such as Sindh and Balochistan, which face extreme drought and sea-level rise respectively (Shawoo & McDermott, 2020).

Lack of Grassroots Participation and Environmental Democracy

Despite climate justice being grounded in principles of inclusivity and fairness, Pakistan's legal framework lacks mechanisms for effective community engagement. Local populations—especially women, indigenous groups, and low-income communities—are seldom consulted in climate decision-making processes. This exclusion undermines the legitimacy and effectiveness of policy interventions (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020).

Furthermore, while the Climate Change Act mandates stakeholder inclusion in the Council, in practice, civil society participation remains symbolic rather than substantive. Without institutionalized channels for participatory governance, vulnerable communities remain peripheral in planning processes, despite being most affected by climate stressors.

Judicial Activism: A Catalyst for Climate Justice

In contrast to legislative inertia, Pakistan's judiciary—particularly the Supreme Court—has emerged as a progressive actor in advancing environmental justice. Through landmark judgments, the Court has expanded the scope of Article 9 (right to life) and Article 14 (dignity of man) to include the right to a clean and healthy environment (Khan et al., 2024). This jurisprudence has helped shape executive obligations and mandated enforcement of environmental safeguards.

Cases such as *Shehla Zia v. WAPDA* and more recent rulings on urban pollution and water scarcity reflect the judiciary's willingness to prioritize ecological integrity and intergenerational equity. These legal precedents underscore the importance of judicial oversight in holding the state accountable, especially when legislative and executive branches fail to act in a timely or just manner (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020).

Climate Finance and Loss & Damage Mechanisms

Another significant gap is the absence of a well-structured climate finance strategy. Although the Climate Change Act establishes a Climate Change Fund, its operational details remain unclear, and disbursement has been inconsistent (Rana et al., 2024). Given Pakistan's vulnerability to extreme climate events, a predictable and transparent funding mechanism is essential for recovery and resilience building.

Internationally, the discourse on "Loss and Damage" highlights the need for compensatory mechanisms for communities experiencing irreversible climate harms (Mechler et al., 2019). However, Pakistan has not yet fully integrated these concepts into its domestic legal system. This limits its ability to seek international redress or mobilize global climate finance for post-disaster rehabilitation and resilience.

Data Deficiency and Monitoring Challenges

The lack of reliable, disaggregated climate data impedes evidence-based policymaking. Current monitoring systems are limited in scope and rarely feed into legislative reviews or policy adjustments. Consequently, it is difficult to assess whether adaptation strategies are achieving their intended outcomes. This further reduces transparency and weakens public trust in climate institutions (Shawoo & McDermott, 2020).

Gender and Social Justice Blind Spots

Finally, there is minimal integration of gender and intersectionality in Pakistan's climate policies. Women, despite being disproportionately affected by climate impacts due to socio-cultural roles, are rarely targeted in adaptation strategies. The National Climate Change Policy makes only generic references to gender inclusion, without offering actionable programs or indicators (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020).

Gaps and Opportunities

Despite the progress reflected in Pakistan's legislative architecture for climate governance, significant gaps persist that limit its effectiveness in achieving climate justice. These gaps are multifaceted, encompassing legal, institutional, procedural, and normative aspects, and they create opportunities for strategic reform. The Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017) and National Climate Change Policy (2021) provide broad frameworks, but they lack operational detail, clearly defined justiciable rights to climate resilience and protection, and effective enforcement mechanisms (Rana et al., 2024). The absence of rigorous monitoring and evaluation frameworks further undermines the implementation of climate policies. At the provincial level, while policies exist in Punjab and

Sindh, other provinces lack coherent strategies, and even where frameworks are present, they often mirror national documents without contextual adaptation to local vulnerabilities (Khan et al., 2024). Weak institutional capacity, underfunded agencies, and limited technical expertise also hinder the effective implementation of climate policies. Moreover, the exclusion of vulnerable groups, such as rural women, small-scale farmers, fisherfolk, and indigenous communities, from planning and implementation processes exacerbates inequalities and ignores valuable local knowledge (Mukhtar Mirza, 2020). The lack of a structured legal framework for climate litigation and dedicated climate courts or tribunals further limits the ability of citizens to seek justice (Khan et al., 2024). However, these gaps also present opportunities for reform, such as institutional strengthening, decentralization of planning, incorporation of justice principles into climate legislation, and enhanced engagement with global climate finance mechanisms. By leveraging international best practices, such as climate budgeting, social audits, and vulnerability mapping, Pakistan can enhance equity and resilience in its climate governance framework (Mechler et al., 2019). Furthermore, accessing global climate finance mechanisms, such as the Green Climate Fund, can supplement domestic funding and enable Pakistan to build climate resilience through targeted investments. Ultimately, addressing these gaps and leveraging these opportunities can help Pakistan develop a more robust and responsive climate governance framework that supports sustainable development and protects the rights of its citizens. To achieve this, Pakistan can draw lessons from global experiences and adapt them to its unique context, ensuring that climate policies are inclusive, effective, and just.

Results and Discussion

The study's findings reveal several key insights into Pakistan's climate governance framework. Firstly, while Pakistan's climate change laws are comparatively progressive within the Global South, their enforcement is hindered by a lack of institutional capacity, political will, and fiscal constraints. The Climate Change Act (2017) and the updated National Climate Change Policy (2021) reflect alignment with global climate priorities, but strong legal foundations are not translating into effective execution.

The judiciary has played a crucial role in enabling climate justice, with the Supreme Court of Pakistan expanding environmental rights and upholding public interest through judicial activism. However, this activism lacks systemic continuity in climate-specific cases. Furthermore, local governments remain poorly integrated into climate decision-making processes, despite provincial autonomy under the 18th Amendment. The absence of localized climate data and participatory governance structures limits context-specific adaptation planning.

Moreover, vulnerable groups, such as rural women, fisherfolk, and ethnic minorities, are largely excluded from the climate planning process, perpetuating environmental injustice. Institutional fragmentation and overlapping mandates also hinder effective climate governance, with multiple institutions operating without adequate coordination. The Climate Change Fund is underutilized, and Pakistan's access to international climate finance remains low due to weak project pipelines and poor institutional readiness. Finally, the absence of a formal climate litigation framework and specialized climate courts limits legal redress in climate harm cases.

Conclusion

Pakistan's legal and institutional framework for climate governance reflects a positive trajectory toward recognizing and addressing the growing threat of climate change. Legislative instruments such as the Pakistan Climate Change Act (2017) and the National Climate Change Policy (2021) signify the state's formal acknowledgment of environmental challenges and its intent to meet both domestic and international climate commitments. However, while these measures are

commendable in principle, they often fall short in practice when evaluated through the lens of climate justice.

The existing framework remains constrained by critical institutional weaknesses, legal ambiguities, and operational inefficiencies. Key issues include limited implementation capacity at both federal and provincial levels, inadequate coordination among government bodies, and the exclusion of vulnerable communities from decision-making processes. These shortcomings have collectively prevented climate policies from being truly transformative or equitably applied across different regions and social groups in Pakistan.

Yet, these challenges also present opportunities for meaningful reform. Strengthening institutional mechanisms, decentralizing governance, ensuring inclusive stakeholder participation, and integrating climate justice principles into legislation and policy design are attainable goals. With strategic investment in capacity building, judicial infrastructure, and public engagement, Pakistan can bridge the gap between policy intent and on-ground impact.

By addressing these gaps and leveraging its existing policy foundations, Pakistan has the potential to build a more resilient, adaptive, and socially just climate governance model. This transformation is essential not only for sustainable development but also for safeguarding the environmental rights and future well-being of its citizens—particularly those most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change.

Recommendations

To strengthen Pakistan's climate governance and advance a justice-oriented approach, a multi-dimensional reform strategy is essential. First and foremost, the legal recognition of climate justice must be embedded within the constitutional and legislative frameworks. This includes amending current laws to explicitly codify the right to climate resilience and environmental integrity as fundamental rights, inseparably linked to the constitutional guarantees of life and dignity and ensure a justice-oriented approach, the following strategic reforms are recommended:

Legal Codification of Climate Justice

Amend the Constitution and existing environmental and climate legislation to explicitly recognize climate justice and the right to climate resilience as justiciable rights. These should be linked directly to the right to life (Article 9) and dignity (Article 14), ensuring legal enforceability. This codification will enable citizens to seek judicial redress in the face of climate-related harms and hold the state accountable for its environmental obligations.

Decentralized and Localized Climate Governance

Transfer both financial and administrative powers to provincial and local governments to design and implement climate action plans. Region-specific adaptation strategies should be developed in consultation with local communities to reflect their unique vulnerabilities—such as glacial melt in the north or drought and salinity in the south. Technical capacity-building programs should be introduced to support this decentralized governance model.

Inclusive Participation and Community Engagement

Establish formal mechanisms for community-based participation in policymaking. These should involve structured consultations with marginalized and climate-vulnerable groups including rural women, youth, indigenous populations, and farmers. Their inclusion in climate planning will enhance legitimacy, local relevance, and ownership of climate initiatives, thereby improving outcomes on the ground.

Strengthening Judicial and Legal Infrastructure

Create dedicated environmental or climate courts at federal and provincial levels to adjudicate climate-related disputes efficiently. Introduce specialized legal training for judges, lawyers, and regulatory bodies to build capacity in climate litigation, environmental rights, and transboundary climate obligations. This will institutionalize legal mechanisms for climate justice.

Operationalizing a Transparent Climate Finance Framework

Activate and institutionalize the Climate Change Fund with transparent, accountable disbursement procedures. Ensure that the fund supports both mitigation and adaptation projects, especially in underserved regions. In parallel, enhance national institutional capacity to access global climate finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund and Loss and Damage facilities under the UNFCCC.

Establishing Robust Climate Data and Monitoring Systems

Develop a centralized, real-time national climate data infrastructure. This should integrate satellite monitoring, GIS-based vulnerability mapping, and socio-economic impact assessment tools. The system should inform both long-term planning and rapid disaster response, while also supporting transparency and periodic policy evaluation.

Promoting Interagency and Multi-Level Coordination

Strengthen coordination among federal ministries, provincial departments, local governments, and civil society organizations to align climate efforts across sectors. Establish intergovernmental task forces or coordination units to ensure coherence in climate action, resource allocation, and compliance with national and international climate goals.

Investing in Public Awareness and Climate Literacy

Launch nationwide public education and awareness campaigns to improve understanding of climate change and its justice dimensions. Integrate climate change education into school and university curricula, and engage media, civil society, and religious leaders to broaden outreach and behavior change.

By implementing these comprehensive recommendations, Pakistan can move toward a resilient and inclusive climate governance model that not only addresses environmental risks but also uplifts vulnerable populations, ensuring that the country meets both its national priorities and international climate commitments.

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