

Review of: "Contextualizing Public Coastal Access Challenges in South Africa, a Review of Best Practices in Selected Countries"

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This article addresses a very interesting and relevant topic. However, there are opportunities to enhance clarity and readability throughout. For instance, the introduction leaves the reader questioning whether coastal areas in South Africa (SA) are publicly or privately owned—an aspect that should be clarified from the outset and not just in section 3.

Additionally, articulating the primary objective of the paper more explicitly would provide a clearer roadmap for the reader. From my understanding, the paper identifies the main challenges present in SA regarding public access to the coast and tries to identify recommendations from international best practices that can be useful to overcome those challenges in SA.

One of the main aspects that could be improved is to make it clear when the author is referring to South Africa, other countries, or generally speaking. Transitions between sentences are sometimes confusing. For example, in the following excerpt, it is not clear whether the last sentence refers to South Africa: "This Act stipulates that the Republic's citizens are the rightful owners of coastal public property , with the state serving as its public trustee. Coastal resources, including fish, minerals, and energy, are critical to people, nature, and the economy, and are a focus for the emerging sustainable blue economy agenda⁷. Public beach access is everyone's right for a better quality of life⁸."

Regarding the Methodology section, the author could explain further: i) why the use of those search engines and not others; ii) how many documents were reviewed; iii) if the content analysis was performed using some specific software (like NVivo or MAXQDA).