

Maricéle Botes (BA Law, LLB, LLM (*cum laude*)) is a PhD Researcher at the South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability and is currently enrolled for her PhD in Law and Development. Her master's research (also conducted in the Research Chair and under the supervision of the Chair Holder, Prof A du Plessis, and co-supervisor Dr A van der Berg) focused on the legal protection of ecosystem services in an urban and South African law context and pertained to the fields of environmental law, local government law, and urban law. Maricéle completed her LLM dissertation titled "Legal protection of 'microclimate regulation' as an urban ecosystem service in South Africa" and passed it with distinction in 2021. Her current research focuses on the state of environmental by-laws in South African municipalities and has a very strong urban law, climate change law, environmental law, and local government law focus.

Maricéle obtained her BA Law, LLB, and LLM degrees in 2017, 2019, and 2021, respectively, at the North-West University. Maricéle is also involved with several research projects at CLES. One of the projects she was involved in was concluded in 2021 (the joint project between CLES and the SACN: Built Environment Integrated Task Team (BEITT) on the legislative analysis regarding the alignment and enablement of some of the critical pieces of South African national legislation impacting on spatial transformation practices of municipalities).

Maricéle was one of the co-editors of the Chair's newsletter "CLES InPress" from 2019-2021 and has recently taken up the role of editor in chief (2022). As part of its research dissemination objectives, she was also one of the co-organisers of the Critical Conversation series (2019-2021) that CLES hosts.

In 2019, Maricéle presented at the Annual National IAIAsa 2019 conference at Klein Kariba, Limpopo, and the CLES/SALGA conference in North-West. In 2020, Ms Botes presented on "Protection of microclimate regulation as an urban ecosystem service: A South African environmental law perspective" at the 9th ELA Annual Student

Conference. In 2021, she presented at two national conferences on "The constitutional environmental right and its application to ecological governance for urban ecosystem services protection" at the 10th ELA Student Conference: Celebrating 25 Years of the 1996 South African Environmental Right, and "A legal perspective towards environmentally safe, sustainable, and inclusive cities – what can local governments do?" at the CLES-SALGA 2nd Annual Postgraduate Conference. Furthermore, Ms Botes also presented at two international conferences in 2021. Her international presentations were on "The adequacy of environmental law in lieu of ecological governance for urban ecosystem services protection", which she presented at the IUCN AEL: The Future of Environmental Law: Ambition and Reality in June 2021, and "The future of environmental law as part of the public law responses to ecosystem services protection in urban areas" at the ICON-S Mundo 2021 Annual Conference: The Future of Public Law in July 2021. Maricéle subsequently presented at the 1st International Online Workshop for Environmental Law PhD Students in January 2022 on "City-level laws as instruments for urban climate resilience in South Africa".

Maricéle is also a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and the Environmental Law Association. Maricéle was a marking assistant (for IURI 174) and general assistant (for IURI 375) during her undergraduate studies. She was also a writing consultant for undergraduate law students at the NWU Writing Centre.

In 2020, Maricéle co-wrote a journal article titled "Legal perspectives on ecosystem services protection for water security in South African cities" with Ms Melandri Steenkamp. This article was published in the journal: Southern African Public Law. Maricéle also wrote a short piece on her LLM research titled "It's time to put environmental regulations to work", which appeared in the 6th ed of the North-West University's Research@NWU newsletter in September 2021. Ms Botes, along with her supervisors, Prof A du Plessis, and Dr A van der Berg, published a piece titled "Legal tools exist to protect South Africa's city ecosystems: it's up to councils to use them" in The Conversation in January 2022. This piece was republished by MoneyWeb, Legalbrief Environmental, and Cape Argus.