

Hydrological Justice Assessment Framework

Measuring Systemic Equity and Ecosystem Health in Water Governance

Assessment Overview

The Hydrological Justice Assessment provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating whether water governance systems serve justice, equity, and planetary healing. Unlike traditional water assessments that focus on technical performance, this tool examines root causes of water injustice while measuring progress toward transformative governance that serves both communities and ecosystems.

Core Purpose: Systematically assess how well water governance addresses historical inequities, current injustices, and future sustainability while building community power and healing damaged relationships between humans and water systems.

Assessment Philosophy:

- **Systemic Analysis:** Examines root causes rather than symptoms of water challenges
- **Intersectional Approach:** Considers how multiple forms of oppression interact in water systems
- **Community-Controlled:** Communities lead assessment and determine how results are used
- **Ecosystem Integration:** Evaluates health of both human and more-than-human water relationships
- **Transformative Orientation:** Measures progress toward justice rather than just access



Section 2: Distributional Justice Assessment

Access Equity Analysis

Primary Indicators:

Geographic Equity:

- Water access rates by community location (urban/rural/remote)
- Infrastructure investment per capita across different areas
- Service quality variations between rich and poor neighborhoods
- Distance to water sources by community economic status

Demographic Equity:

- Access rates by race, ethnicity, and Indigenous status
- Gender differences in water collection burden and decision-making
- Age-specific challenges (elderly, children, youth)
- Disability accessibility of water infrastructure and services

Economic Justice:

- Water affordability by household income quintile
- Percentage of income spent on water by economic status
- Availability of payment assistance and affordability programs
- Debt and disconnection rates by community demographics

Cultural Accessibility:

- Accommodation of cultural and religious water practices
- Language accessibility of water services and information
- Respect for traditional water use patterns and seasonal practices
- Protection of culturally significant water sites and practices

Assessment Questions:

For each indicator, assess on scale of 1-5 (1=Very Poor, 5=Excellent)

Geographic Distribution:

1. Do all communities have equal access to water services regardless of location? ____/5
2. Are infrastructure investments distributed equitably across communities? ____/5

3. Do remote and rural areas receive adequate service attention? ____/5
4. Are marginalized communities prioritized in infrastructure planning? ____/5

Economic Accessibility:

1. Can all households afford basic water services? ____/5
2. Are payment assistance programs available and accessible? ____/5
3. Are disconnection policies fair and do they protect vulnerable households? ____/5
4. Do pricing structures promote conservation while ensuring affordability? ____/5

Social Inclusion:

1. Do all racial and ethnic groups have equal access to quality water? ____/5
2. Are women's water needs and perspectives included in service design? ____/5
3. Is water infrastructure accessible to people with disabilities? ____/5
4. Are traditional and cultural water practices accommodated? ____/5

Resource Allocation Analysis

Budget Equity Assessment:

Water Budget Distribution Analysis:

Total Annual Water Budget: \$_____

Allocation by Community Type:

- Wealthy urban areas: \$_____ (__% of budget, __% of population)
- Middle-income areas: \$_____ (__% of budget, __% of population)
- Low-income areas: \$_____ (__% of budget, __% of population)
- Rural communities: \$_____ (__% of budget, __% of population)
- Indigenous territories: \$_____ (__% of budget, __% of population)

Per Capita Investment:

- Wealthy urban: \$_____ per person
- Middle-income: \$_____ per person
- Low-income: \$_____ per person
- Rural: \$_____ per person
- Indigenous: \$_____ per person

Equity Ratio (highest per capita ÷ lowest per capita): _____
Acceptable equity range: 1.0-1.5 (closer to 1.0 indicates greater equity)

Infrastructure Investment Equity:

- Historical investment patterns over past 10 years by community type
- Planned future investments and their distributional impact
- Maintenance and upgrade priorities across different areas
- Community input into investment planning and prioritization



Section 3: Procedural Justice Assessment

Participation and Governance Analysis

Democratic Participation Indicators:

Meaningful Engagement:

- Percentage of community members participating in water governance
- Quality of participation opportunities (information, deliberation, decision-making)
- Accessibility of participation (language, location, timing, childcare)
- Follow-through on community input and recommendations

Representative Leadership:

- Demographics of water governance leadership compared to community composition
- Indigenous representation in governance bodies and decision-making roles
- Youth and elder participation in governance structures
- Rotation and development of community leadership

Transparency and Accountability:

- Public availability of water governance information and data
- Community access to decision-making processes and meetings
- Responsiveness to community concerns and complaints

- Independent oversight and accountability mechanisms

Governance Assessment Scorecard:

Participation Quality (Rate 1-5 for each):

1. Community members receive adequate information before decisions ____/5
2. Meetings are accessible and welcoming to all community members ____/5
3. Community input significantly influences final decisions ____/5
4. Marginalized voices are actively sought and included ____/5
5. Conflicts and disagreements are resolved fairly and transparently ____/5

Leadership Representation (Rate 1-5 for each):

1. Water governance leadership reflects community demographics ____/5
2. Women hold meaningful leadership roles in water governance ____/5
3. Indigenous peoples have appropriate authority over traditional territories ____/5
4. Youth have genuine decision-making roles, not just consultation ____/5
5. Leadership development supports marginalized community members ____/5

Accountability Mechanisms (Rate 1-5 for each):

1. Community members can easily access information about water decisions ____/5
2. Officials regularly report to community on water governance performance ____/5
3. Effective complaint and grievance procedures exist and are used ____/5
4. Independent oversight holds officials accountable for performance ____/5
5. Elections or other mechanisms enable community control over leadership ____/5

Decision-Making Process Evaluation

Power Analysis Matrix:

Water Decision-Making Power Assessment:

Decision Type	Community Power	Government Power	Corporate Power
-----	-----	-----	-----
Water allocation	____%	____%	____%
Infrastructure investment	____%	____%	____%

Service pricing | ____% | ____% | ____% | ____% |
Environmental protection | ____% | ____% | ____% | ____% |
Traditional water use | ____% | ____% | ____% | ____% |

Total power should equal 100% for each decision type

Ideal distribution prioritizes community and Indigenous authority

Decision-Making Quality Assessment:

- Time allocated for community deliberation before major decisions
- Use of consensus-building vs. majority vote vs. executive decision
- Integration of technical expertise with community knowledge and values
- Consideration of long-term consequences and intergenerational impacts

Section 4: Recognition Justice Assessment

Cultural and Spiritual Dimensions

Indigenous Rights Recognition:

Sovereignty and Self-Determination:

- Recognition of Indigenous nations' inherent water governance authority
- Implementation of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent protocols
- Integration of traditional law and governance systems
- Support for Indigenous language and cultural preservation

Traditional Knowledge Integration:

- Inclusion of Indigenous ecological knowledge in water management
- Recognition and protection of traditional water management practices
- Integration of seasonal calendars and traditional governance cycles
- Compensation and attribution for traditional knowledge contributions

Sacred Site Protection:

- Identification and protection of sacred water sites and ceremonies
- Consultation with spiritual leaders and knowledge holders
- Integration of spiritual practices with water governance
- Respect for cultural protocols around water access and use

Indigenous Rights Scorecard (Rate 1-5 for each):

1. Indigenous nations exercise meaningful authority over traditional territory waters ____/5
2. Traditional knowledge is valued equally with scientific knowledge ____/5
3. Sacred water sites are protected and accessible for traditional practices ____/5
4. Indigenous governance systems are supported and integrated ____/5
5. Indigenous communities benefit equitably from water resource development ____/5

Historical Justice and Truth-Telling

Historical Harm Acknowledgment:

- Recognition of historical water colonization and dispossession
- Documentation of environmental racism and discriminatory policies
- Acknowledgment of ongoing impacts of historical injustices
- Public truth-telling processes and memorial practices

Reparative Justice Measures:

- Specific policies addressing historical water injustices
- Priority resource allocation to historically harmed communities
- Land and water rights restoration where applicable
- Community healing and reconciliation processes

Truth and Reconciliation Assessment:

Historical Justice Evaluation:

Historical Harm Recognition:

- Official acknowledgment of water colonization: Yes/No
- Documentation of discriminatory policies: Yes/No
- Public education about historical injustices: Yes/No
- Memorial/commemoration of affected communities: Yes/No

Reparative Measures:

- Priority investment in historically harmed communities: Yes/No
- Land/water rights restoration programs: Yes/No
- Community healing and reconciliation processes: Yes/No
- Policy changes addressing root causes: Yes/No

Truth-Telling Quality (Rate 1-5):

- Accuracy and completeness of historical acknowledgment ____/5
- Community control over truth-telling processes ____/5
- Integration of community voices and experiences ____/5
- Connection between truth-telling and concrete action ____/5

Knowledge System Pluralism

Epistemological Justice:

- Recognition of diverse ways of knowing about water systems
- Integration of scientific, traditional, and experiential knowledge
- Support for community-based research and knowledge production
- Protection against appropriation of traditional knowledge

Language and Communication:

- Availability of water information in community languages
- Use of culturally appropriate communication methods
- Integration of oral tradition and storytelling in water education
- Respect for traditional terminology and concepts



Section 5: Regenerative Justice Assessment

Ecosystem Restoration and Healing

Watershed Health Indicators:

Ecological Integrity:

- Biodiversity levels in aquatic and riparian ecosystems
- Water quality trends and pollution reduction achievements
- Natural flow patterns and hydrological cycle health
- Ecosystem service provision and enhancement

Restoration Progress:

- Hectares of degraded watershed restored annually
- Success rates of restoration projects and community participation
- Integration of traditional restoration practices with modern techniques
- Long-term monitoring and adaptive management of restoration efforts

Rights of Nature Implementation:

- Legal recognition of water bodies as persons with rights
- Establishment of guardianship systems for water body representation
- Legal cases and enforcement actions protecting ecosystem rights
- Community understanding and support for Rights of Nature

Ecosystem Health Scorecard (Rate 1-5 for each):

1. Aquatic ecosystems are healthy and support native biodiversity ____/5
2. Water quality meets or exceeds standards for ecosystem health ____/5
3. Natural flow patterns are maintained or restored ____/5
4. Restoration projects are successful and community-supported ____/5
5. Water bodies have effective legal protection and representation ____/5

Community Healing and Empowerment

Social Healing Indicators:

- Community trust and social cohesion around water issues
- Healing of water-related trauma and historical wounds
- Strengthening of cultural connections to water systems
- Development of reciprocal relationships with water

Capacity Building Assessment:

- Community technical skills development and ownership
- Leadership development and democratic participation capacity
- Economic empowerment through water-related enterprises
- Intergenerational knowledge transfer and cultural preservation

Transformative Change Indicators:

- Shift from dependency to self-determination in water governance
- Movement from scarcity to abundance mindset and practices
- Evolution from conflict to cooperation around water resources
- Development from extraction to regeneration in water relationships

Community Empowerment Matrix:

Empowerment Assessment (Rate 1-5 for each dimension):

Individual Empowerment:

- Water literacy and technical knowledge ____/5
- Confidence in advocacy and political participation ____/5
- Spiritual/cultural connection to water ____/5
- Personal agency in water decisions ____/5

Community Empowerment:

- Collective efficacy in water governance ____/5
- Organizational capacity and leadership ____/5
- Economic self-reliance and cooperative development ____/5
- Cultural preservation and revitalization ____/5

System Transformation:

- Democratic governance institution development ____/5
- Policy change achieved through community advocacy ____/5
- Economic model transformation toward justice ____/5
- Cultural paradigm shift toward regenerative relationships ____/5



Section 6: Integrated Assessment Methodology

Comprehensive Justice Index

Overall Hydrological Justice Score Calculation:

Justice Pillar Scores (each scored 1-100):

Distributional Justice Score: ____/100

- Access Equity (25 points): ____
- Resource Allocation (25 points): ____
- Economic Justice (25 points): ____
- Cultural Accessibility (25 points): ____

Procedural Justice Score: ____/100

- Participation Quality (35 points): ____
- Leadership Representation (35 points): ____
- Accountability Mechanisms (30 points): ____

Recognition Justice Score: ____/100

- Indigenous Rights (40 points): ____
- Historical Justice (30 points): ____
- Knowledge System Pluralism (30 points): ____

Regenerative Justice Score: ____/100

- Ecosystem Health (50 points): ____
- Community Healing (50 points): ____

Overall Hydrological Justice Index: ____/100

(Average of four pillar scores)

Interpretation:

90-100: Exemplary justice-oriented water governance

80-89: Strong justice foundations with opportunities for improvement

70-79: Moderate justice progress with significant gaps to address

60-69: Limited justice orientation requiring substantial transformation
Below 60: Urgent need for fundamental water governance transformation

Qualitative Assessment Integration

Narrative Assessment Components:

Community Voice Integration:

- Direct quotes from community members about water justice experiences
- Stories illustrating both challenges and progress toward justice
- Community-identified priorities for advancing water justice
- Cultural and spiritual dimensions that numbers cannot capture

Intersectional Analysis:

- How different forms of oppression intersect in water systems
- Unique challenges faced by multiply-marginalized community members
- Success stories of intersectional organizing and coalition building
- Ongoing tensions and areas requiring continued attention

Systems Change Evaluation:

- Evidence of shifts in power relationships and decision-making
- Changes in cultural narratives and community consciousness
- Evolution in relationships between humans and water systems
- Emerging innovations and creative solutions developed by communities

Comparative and Longitudinal Analysis

Baseline Establishment:

Baseline Assessment (Year ____):

Distributional Justice: ____/100

Procedural Justice: ____/100

Recognition Justice: ____/100

Regenerative Justice: ____/100

Overall Index: ____/100

Key Challenges Identified:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Community Priorities for Improvement:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Progress Tracking Template:

Annual Progress Assessment:

Year: ____

Previous Year Score: ____/100

Current Year Score: ____/100

Change: +/- ____ points

Biggest Improvements:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Persistent Challenges:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Emerging Opportunities:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Community Priorities for Next Year:

1. _____

2. _____
3. _____

Section 7: Assessment Implementation Toolkit

Community Assessment Process

Phase 1: Preparation and Planning (Month 1)

Community Engagement:

- Hold community meetings to explain assessment purpose and process
- Form assessment team with diverse community representation
- Identify assessment priorities based on community concerns
- Plan assessment timeline and resource needs

Capacity Building:

- Train assessment team in data collection methods and tools
- Build understanding of justice framework and assessment criteria
- Develop culturally appropriate assessment approaches
- Create community-controlled data management systems

Stakeholder Mapping:

- Identify all actors influencing water governance in community
- Map power relationships and decision-making processes
- Plan stakeholder engagement for data collection and validation
- Develop strategies for sharing results and building support for change

Phase 2: Data Collection (Months 2-3)

Mixed Methods Approach:

- Quantitative data collection using assessment scorecards and matrices
- Qualitative interviews with diverse community members

- Focus groups with specific populations (women, youth, elders)
- Participatory mapping and visual assessment exercises

Cultural Integration:

- Integration of traditional knowledge and cultural assessment methods
- Ceremony or ritual acknowledgment of assessment as sacred work
- Elder interviews about historical context and cultural perspectives
- Traditional language documentation of key concepts and experiences

Participatory Validation:

- Community review of preliminary findings and analysis
- Feedback sessions to ensure accurate representation of community experiences
- Collective interpretation of results and priority setting
- Consensus building around assessment conclusions and recommendations

Phase 3: Analysis and Reporting (Month 4)

Comprehensive Analysis:

- Integration of quantitative scores with qualitative insights
- Identification of patterns, trends, and root causes
- Assessment of progress and persistent challenges
- Development of recommendations for improvement

Community Report Development:

- Community-accessible summary of findings and recommendations
- Visual representations of data and key insights
- Story-based presentation of assessment results
- Action planning based on assessment priorities

External Report Preparation:

- Technical report for government officials and partner organizations
- Advocacy document highlighting policy change needs
- Academic or policy brief for broader dissemination
- Media materials for public education and pressure

Assessment Team Roles and Responsibilities

Community Assessment Coordinator:

- Overall coordination of assessment process and timeline
- Liaison with external partners and technical assistance providers
- Community meeting facilitation and consensus building
- Report writing and results dissemination

Data Collection Specialists (2-3 people):

- Training in assessment tools and data collection methods
- Household interviews and survey administration
- Infrastructure and environmental data collection
- Community focus group facilitation

Cultural Knowledge Keepers (1-2 elders):

- Integration of traditional knowledge and cultural perspectives
- Guidance on culturally appropriate assessment methods
- Historical context and community memory integration
- Spiritual and ceremonial aspects of assessment process

Youth Researchers (2-3 people):

- Peer education and youth-specific data collection
- Digital tools and technology integration
- Creative documentation methods (photography, video, art)
- Intergenerational bridge-building and knowledge transfer

Community Advocates (1-2 people):

- Connection to broader advocacy campaigns and policy change efforts
- Government and stakeholder relationship management
- Media engagement and public education
- Strategic planning for using assessment results

Resource Requirements and Budget Planning

Basic Assessment Budget (for community of 1,000-5,000 people):

Personnel Costs:

- Assessment coordinator (part-time, 4 months): \$2,000
- Data collection specialists (3 people, 2 months): \$1,500
- Elder knowledge keepers (honoraria): \$500
- Youth researchers (stipends): \$300

Total Personnel: \$4,300

Materials and Supplies:

- Assessment forms and surveys: \$100
- Data collection tools and equipment: \$200
- Community meeting costs (food, space): \$300
- Report production and dissemination: \$200

Total Materials: \$800

Technical Assistance:

- Training for assessment team: \$500
- Data analysis support: \$300
- Report writing assistance: \$200

Total Technical Assistance: \$1,000

Total Assessment Budget: \$6,100

Potential Funding Sources:

- Community fundraising and contributions
- Small grants from foundations or government programs
- Support from advocacy organizations or universities
- In-kind contributions from community members and partners

Resource Mobilization Strategies:

- Community contributions of time, space, and local knowledge
- Partnership with universities for technical assistance and student involvement
- Support from advocacy organizations for training and report dissemination
- Government agency cooperation for data access and stakeholder engagement



Section 8: Case Studies and Learning Examples

Case Study 1: Urban Environmental Justice Assessment - Flint, Michigan

Context: Community-led assessment of water governance following lead contamination crisis, examining systemic racism and government failure.

Assessment Process:

- Resident Action Council coordinated comprehensive justice assessment
- Integration of health data, government accountability analysis, and community experience
- Emphasis on environmental racism and procedural justice failures
- Community-controlled research with university partnership support

Key Findings:

- **Distributional Justice: 15/100** - Severe inequities in infrastructure investment and emergency response
- **Procedural Justice: 20/100** - Systematic exclusion of community voice and cover-up of problems
- **Recognition Justice: 25/100** - Failure to acknowledge racism and community knowledge
- **Regenerative Justice: 30/100** - Limited community healing and continued institutional mistrust

Assessment Impact:

- Documentation used in legal cases and federal intervention advocacy
- Community organizing strengthened through shared analysis and evidence
- Policy changes at state level including lead pipe replacement requirements
- National attention to environmental racism and water infrastructure challenges

Lessons Learned:

- Community-controlled assessment builds organizing capacity beyond data collection
- Integration of health data with governance analysis reveals systemic patterns

- Assessment process itself can be healing and empowering for affected communities
- External validation of community knowledge strengthens advocacy and legal action

Case Study 2: Indigenous Water Sovereignty Assessment - Navajo Nation

Context: Comprehensive assessment of water governance on Navajo Nation lands, examining federal government obligations and tribal sovereignty.

Assessment Process:

- Diné-led assessment team with traditional knowledge keeper guidance
- Integration of traditional governance principles with rights-based analysis
- Emphasis on federal trust responsibility and treaty obligations
- Ceremony and spiritual practice integrated throughout assessment process

Key Findings:

- **Distributional Justice: 35/100** - Significant disparities compared to surrounding communities
- **Procedural Justice: 60/100** - Strong tribal governance but limited federal consultation
- **Recognition Justice: 75/100** - Growing recognition of sovereignty but incomplete implementation
- **Regenerative Justice: 55/100** - Traditional practices maintained but ecosystem degradation continues

Assessment Impact:

- Used in federal policy advocacy and congressional testimony
- Strengthened tribal water settlement negotiations
- Community education about water rights and traditional governance
- Regional coalition building with other tribal nations

Lessons Learned:

- Indigenous assessment frameworks require different justice standards and cultural integration
- Federal government obligations create unique accountability mechanisms

- Traditional knowledge provides powerful alternative framework for justice evaluation
- Assessment can strengthen cultural identity and sovereignty claims

Case Study 3: Post-Conflict Water Justice Assessment - El Salvador

Context: Community assessment of water governance in post-civil war context, examining conflict legacies and reconstruction opportunities.

Assessment Process:

- Multi-community assessment coordinated by water rights organization
- Focus on healing conflict trauma and building democratic governance
- Integration of rural and urban perspectives on water access and governance
- Connection to broader peace-building and reconciliation efforts

Key Findings:

- **Distributional Justice: 45/100** - Rural-urban disparities and persistent poverty impacts
- **Procedural Justice: 50/100** - Emerging democratic institutions but limited community voice
- **Recognition Justice: 40/100** - Limited acknowledgment of conflict impacts and rural knowledge
- **Regenerative Justice: 55/100** - Environmental restoration but incomplete social healing

Assessment Impact:

- Constitutional reform campaign including water as human right
- Community organizing for municipal water service improvements
- Regional cooperation on watershed management and restoration
- International solidarity and learning exchange with other post-conflict communities

Lessons Learned:

- Post-conflict assessment requires attention to trauma and healing alongside governance
- Constitutional and legal reform can be powerful tool for advancing water justice
- Regional cooperation essential for addressing transboundary water challenges
- International solidarity provides important support and learning opportunities



Section 9: Getting Started with Your Assessment

Rapid Assessment Option (1 Month Process)

Week 1: Community Preparation

- Hold 2-3 community meetings to build understanding and support
- Form assessment team of 5-7 committed community members
- Identify priority justice concerns based on community discussion
- Plan assessment approach adapted to community capacity and resources

Week 2: Data Collection

- Conduct household interviews using simplified assessment questionnaire
- Hold focus groups with different community segments
- Document infrastructure and environmental conditions
- Gather available data from government sources and partner organizations

Week 3: Analysis and Validation

- Calculate assessment scores and identify key patterns
- Hold community validation meetings to review findings
- Integrate quantitative scores with community stories and qualitative insights
- Develop preliminary recommendations based on assessment results

Week 4: Reporting and Action Planning

- Prepare community report with assessment findings and recommendations
- Present results at community meeting and gather feedback on priorities
- Develop action plan for addressing priority justice concerns
- Plan follow-up assessment and ongoing monitoring activities

Comprehensive Assessment Option (6 Month Process)

Months 1-2: Preparation and Capacity Building

- Extensive community engagement and consensus building around assessment
- Assessment team training and capacity building
- Stakeholder mapping and engagement planning
- Cultural integration and traditional knowledge inclusion planning

Months 3-4: Data Collection and Documentation

- Comprehensive data collection using all assessment tools and methods
- Integration of quantitative and qualitative assessment approaches
- Community validation and feedback throughout data collection process
- Documentation of assessment process and community learning

Months 5-6: Analysis, Reporting, and Action Planning

- Comprehensive analysis integrating all assessment data and community input
- Report writing and community presentation preparation
- Action planning based on assessment priorities and recommendations
- Assessment dissemination and advocacy campaign development

Assessment Adaptation Guidelines

Rural Community Adaptations:

- Use seasonal calendars and traditional governance timeframes
- Emphasize traditional knowledge and elder participation
- Address transportation and communication challenges
- Connect to agricultural cycles and water use patterns

Urban Community Adaptations:

- Address complex governance structures and multiple service providers
- Navigate diverse populations and language differences
- Use digital tools and social media for engagement
- Address housing insecurity and displacement pressures

Indigenous Community Adaptations:

- Center traditional governance and knowledge systems

- Ensure cultural protocols are respected throughout process
- Include traditional language and concepts in assessment
- Connect to broader sovereignty and self-determination movements

Post-Crisis Adaptations:

- Address trauma and security concerns in assessment design
 - Use assessment to document crisis impacts and advocate for support
 - Build community cohesion and healing through collaborative assessment
 - Connect assessment to broader recovery and reconstruction planning
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Support and Resources

Technical Assistance Resources

Assessment Training Organizations:

- DataCenter: Research Justice and community-controlled research training
- Center for Community Change: Policy analysis and advocacy capacity building
- National Domestic Workers Alliance: Popular education and assessment methods
- Indigenous Environmental Network: Traditional knowledge integration and sovereignty

University Partnerships:

- Community-based participatory research programs
- Environmental justice research centers
- Indigenous studies programs with community engagement focus
- Public policy schools with community partnership programs

Legal and Advocacy Support:

- Environmental and climate justice legal organizations
- Water rights advocacy groups and coalitions
- Indigenous rights legal support organizations
- Community organizing and policy advocacy networks

Funding and Resource Support

Assessment Funding Sources:

- Environmental justice foundation grants
- Community foundation support for grassroots research
- Government agency community engagement funding
- Religious organization social justice grants

In-Kind Support Opportunities:

- University student and faculty volunteer participation
- Organization technical assistance and capacity building support
- Government agency data access and stakeholder engagement
- Community volunteer time and local knowledge contributions

Assessment Tools and Templates

Digital Assessment Tools:

- Online survey platforms adapted for community use
- Mobile data collection apps for field assessment
- Simple data analysis tools and visualization software
- Community reporting templates and presentation tools

Print Resources:

- Assessment forms and questionnaires in multiple languages
- Community meeting facilitation guides and materials
- Visual assessment tools including mapping and photography guides
- Report templates adapted for different audiences and purposes

 **Call to Assessment Action**

The Hydrological Justice Assessment is more than an evaluation tool—it's a process of community empowerment, consciousness building, and strategic planning for water transformation. By systematically examining how well water governance serves justice, equity, and planetary healing, communities build the knowledge and power needed to demand and create change.

Your Assessment Journey Begins With:

- **Recognition** that your community deserves water justice and has the knowledge to evaluate progress
- **Commitment** to systematic documentation of both challenges and community strengths
- **Courage** to name injustices clearly while building vision for transformation
- **Collective Action** that uses assessment results to organize for concrete change

Assessment as Sacred Work: Evaluating water justice is sacred work because it honors the relationships between communities, ecosystems, and water systems while documenting both wounds and healing. Approach assessment with reverence for community knowledge, respect for water as living entity, and commitment to justice as spiritual practice.

Global Learning Network: Join communities worldwide using this assessment framework to measure and advance water justice. Share your experiences, adapt tools to your context, and contribute to the global movement transforming water governance from extraction to regeneration.

Your assessment starts with believing that justice is possible, proceeds with systematic documentation of current reality, and culminates in organized action for transformation. Every community assessment contributes to the global understanding of how to create water governance that serves life, justice, and planetary healing.

The water is calling you to assessment, accountability, and action. Answer with courage, community, and commitment to justice.