

Justice and fairness in Sustainability

**NAS Workshop on Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities
for Sustainability Science
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Key conceptual building blocks

Goals, Dimensions, Principles, Stakeholders

Goals of justice efforts



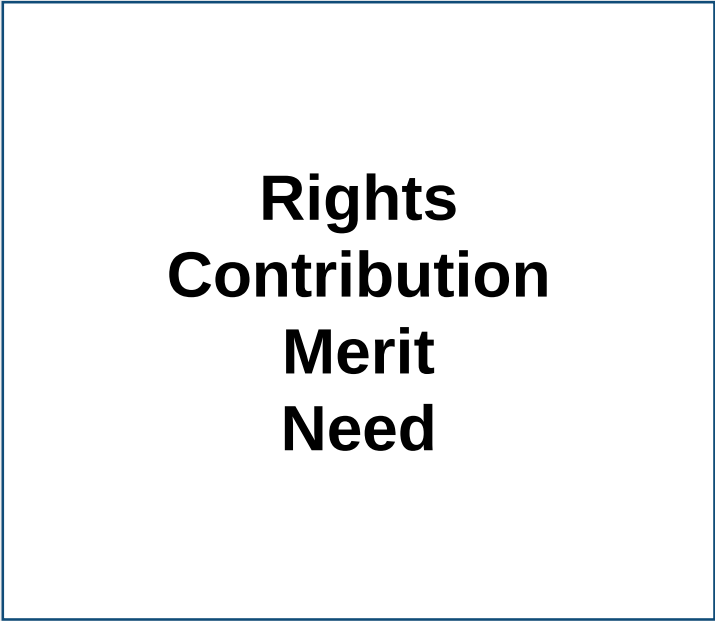
**Inclusion
Equity
Redress**

Dimensions/Mechanisms of justice



**Recognitional
Procedural
Allocative**

Principles of justice



Rights
Contribution
Merit
Need

Justice “stakeholders”

**Intra-generational
Inter-generational
Non-human**

To describe/understand/predict(?) outcomes of social processes/interventions

attend to

- How power is distributed**
- What connections/pathways exist (including across scales)**
- How agents deploy resources (capacities) they mobilize**

Connections

attend to

- Awash in data, but still missing critical knowledge on measures and data on justice and fairness in sustainability**
- How to connect fairness and justice to outcomes whether about adaptation, transformation, or from knowledge to action.**

Five take home messages

- 0. Need more consistent and more consistently used vocabulary**
- 1. Greater justice and fairness fundamental to all other sustainability goals**
- 2. Injustices and inequalities beyond given thresholds => social instability and violence**
- 3. Success in justice efforts occurs both by scaling up local efforts and restructuring unjust lower level processes from above**
- 4. Interventions to secure justice and fairness require substantial mobilization of resources and capacities across scales**
- 5. Greater justice and fairness involves both leveling up and down, but latter threatens status quo**

Five gaps

(related to the take home messages)

- 1. More and more specific knowledge about the relationships of justice+fairness with economic and environmental sustainability**
- 2. Scaling of small-scale successful initiatives, including attention to their embeddedness**
- 3. How to identify context-specific thresholds for translation of inequalities and injustice into violence and instability?**
- 4. How to identify and mobilize resources to pursue fairer and more just sustainability outcomes?**
- 5. What are the justifications/possibilities for leveling down for fairness+justice?**