



# Water Justice: Elusive Concept or Useful Tool?

## A water security perspective on justice.

**Sarah Wade**

University of East Anglia

Water Security & International Development MSc Alumna

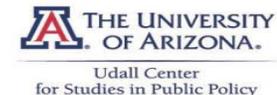
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# Key Concepts

## ***Water Security***

*“The availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods, ecosystems and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks to people, environments and economies.”<sup>1</sup>*

## ***Schlosberg’s theory of environmental justice...<sup>2</sup>***

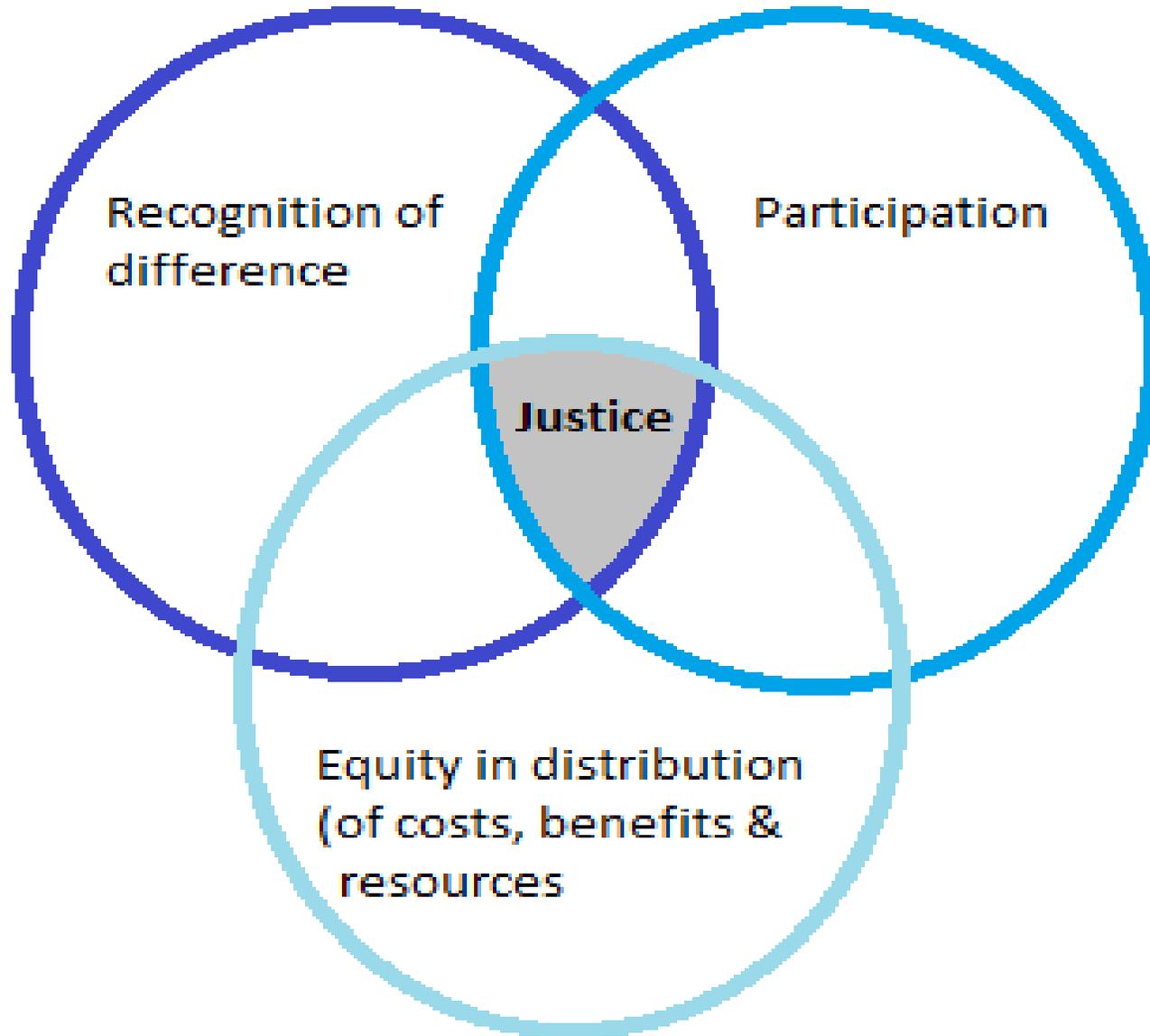
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<sup>1</sup> Grey, D. & Sadoff, C. (2007) Sink or swim? Water security for growth & development, *Water Policy*, 9(6), p.545-571

<sup>2</sup> Schlosberg, D. (2004) Reconceiving environmental justice: global movements and political theories. *Environmental Politics* 13, p.517–40



# Schlosberg's Framework



## Limitations:

Does not allow for simultaneous consideration of people, livelihoods & economies

Fails to consider case-specific factors

Insufficient consideration of relationships & multi-scalar processes

In many situations, there may be more than one justifiable outcome



# The Panoramic Framework of Water Justice

“Who gets how much water, how and why?”<sup>3</sup>

There are two key concepts missing from Schlosberg’s framework of environmental justice:

- Power
- Scales/levels

Lukes’ three dimensions of power<sup>4</sup> was added to the framework, along with the ability to select a scale to use which was relevant for the context.

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<sup>3</sup> Zeitoun, M. & Warner, J. (2006) Hydro-hegemony – a framework for analysis of trans-boundary water conflicts. *Water Policy*, 8(2), p.435-460

<sup>4</sup> Lukes, S. (2005 [1974]) *Power: A Radical View*. 2nd Edition. Palgrave MacMillan, Hampshire, UK.



# Applying the Framework

The Framework was applied to competing water uses around Kenya's Lake Naivasha to test for robustness and investigate the notions of justice and water security within the context of Naivasha.

The scale used was jurisdictional: local (sub-catchment), national (catchment) and international.



Levels	Equity in Distribution	Recognition of Diversity of Communities	Participation in Decision Making Process	Power Dynamics (First, Second & Third Dimension)
Local	<p>Farmers, fishermen, herdsman &amp; domestic users sometimes struggle to gain access to the Lake</p> <p><b>Inequitable distribution</b></p>			<p>Multiple competing narratives exist around water use in Naivasha. The dominance of these narratives can influence the outcome of decision-making processes</p> <p><b>Second dimension of power</b></p>
National	<p>Water used to generate foreign income &amp; electricity as well as drinking water supply</p> <p><b>More equitable distribution</b></p>			<p>The Lake Naivasha WRUA is well developed &amp; organised around multiple existing groups &amp; associations. As a result, it can dominate discussions around water use at the Lake</p> <p><b>Second dimension of power</b></p>
Int'l	<p>Agribusiness dominates water use.</p> <p><b>Inequitable distribution</b></p>			<p>International agribusinesses use hard power as they threaten to relocate to other countries if water prices increase</p> <p><b>First &amp; third dimensions of power</b></p>

# Closing Thoughts: What does this tell us about justice & water security?

- Scale and power play a vital role
  - An injustice at one scale or level can become a justice at another
  - Power begins to explain some of the processes behind this transition
- Greater focus on processes which create just & unjust situations
- Justice is less of an outcome than it is often assumed to be
- Justices and injustices can co-exist and evolve
- Justice highlights opportunities for improving decision-making processes & opportunities to strengthen water security
- Water justice provides the '**how**' and the '**why**' to water security



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