

# Judicial Dispute Settlement Mechanisms for Sustainability



## WE ARE IIJS

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The Inter-American Institute on Justice and Sustainability is an “Institutional Start-Up” with a global scope, which provides rule of law cutting-edge solutions to unconventional challenges. We build bridges between disciplines and between the public and private sectors for justice and sustainability.

At IIJS, we support efforts and roles of multiple relevant actors in sustainable business practices, development, human rights, as well as environmental and social compliance.

The scarcity and lack of effective communication surrounding the use of natural resources has resulted in a rise of conflicts in the region, on a national level as well as between States, putting economic development at risk and creating a negative climate for governability and respecting human rights. With so many factors and stakeholders in play, there is increasing polarization in regards to the access and usage of natural resources. This not only makes decision-making more difficult, yet also often ends in prosecution.



## OUR FOCUS

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We understand that conflicts in the region arise as consequences of certain resource use practices that can lead to movements, modifications and changes and/or the dismantling of relations between affected stakeholders. At IJS, we help **create processes** in decision-making oriented at generating trust, the conditions, and necessary skills between key stakeholders in order to prevent escalation of tensions and reach reconciliation.

# OUR SERVICES

We work supporting governments, the private sector, and society's leaders, with varying services, under three concrete areas with a focus on diplomacy for sustainability and reconciliation of interests:

Implementation of frameworks based on **principles of socio-environmental safeguards** and **human rights** for development and business responsibility



As an international, neutral entity, we seek to collaborate in complex socio-environmental disputes and in the effectiveness of high profile projects, corporate ethics, compliance, and socio-environmental justice. In this context, we work with **governments and the private sector** in the following services:

The design and implementation of agendas involving multiple parties of interest, large and small groups, as well as decision-making processes.

Mediation in communal development, civil pledges, the creation of consensuses for the development of public policies, and organizational strategic consultation.

## Conflict Resolution



*Our comprehensive knowledge in law encompasses environmental and international human rights as well as scientific law, engineering and standard procedures, which allows us to maximize efficacy in dispute resolution or contentious charges. These services are designed for **governments and the private sector**:*

Expert advice for disputes in courts and international tribunals in substantive aspects and international law procedurals.

Using technical alternatives to provide solutions to controversies and conflicts (Fact-finding searches, facilitation, mediation, negotiation, creating compromises, etc.) in public policy, civil participation and organizational development processes relating to sustainable community development successes, socio-environmental justice, and smart growth.

Training of new **leadership** in conflict **prevention** and **interest conciliation** for sustainability



*IJS offers a professional development certificate program in **The Prevention of Conflicts and Conciliation of Interests for Sustainability** designed to strengthen the **skills of public and private servants, and of leaders in civil society** with respect to sustainable development and the prevention of socio-environmental conflicts. The program is detailed below:*

The 6-module program includes a duration of 1 (one) week or 40 course hours and can be taken in person or virtually, in Spanish, English, or Portuguese, and in agreed upon locations and dates.

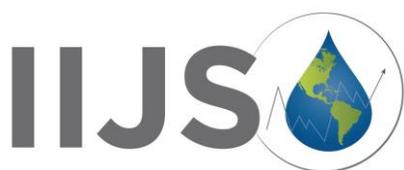
The training will take place in partnership with recognized academic institutions and diplomatic institutions or advanced learning centers of the Foreign Affairs Ministries of the States.

Similarly, using our focus to bridge between justice, sustainability and prosperity, <http://www.ii-js.org/home-es/unpuente/>, we have developed creative solutions to approach environmental justice concerns on a community level. This includes:

- Consulting considerations of socio-environmental justice during life cycles of investment projects for development.
- Consulting in settlement negotiations.
- Design and implementation of holistic programs for companies to consider environmental justice in their decision-making processes.
- Consulting surrounding good practices on a sectoral level in regards to socio-environmental justice.
- Training and consciousness work surrounding socio-environmental matters.
- Development of protocols for reports and compliance for companies.

**Throughout the program, the participants will:**

1. Reflect on the need for social and economic development and its positive aspects, recognize the negative consequences of conflicts that affect all of society, and the need to work concertedly to reduce their detrimental effects.
1. Learn the legal and institutional frameworks, the guiding regulations and principles of sustainable development, as well as the focus on rights.
1. Identify in the earliest phase possible circumstances which could result in serious conflicts and the need for participatory work techniques and preventive diplomacy.
1. Understand the causes, typology, and substantive aspects of prevalent unrest in the region and how to analyze it.
1. Suggest the incorporation and utilization of alternative solutions mechanisms for disputes, and identify measures for structural prevention.



### **For More Information**

[info@ii-js.org](mailto:info@ii-js.org) - Tel: 202.570.4041

Washington, DC - [www.ii-js.org](http://www.ii-js.org)