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A Role-Playing Game for River Basin Report Cards

Partnership

Role-play with players to your left and right with different Values from you. (If you've already drawn this card, choose two players with Values you haven't role-played with yet.)

Award this card to the player whom you think would be ***the best partner for you and your Value.*** That player may play the card at any time to EITHER:

- Overrule a vote *OR*
- Protect 2 Values from an event

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The region has witnessed warmer, wetter weather for many years, but little has been done to understand or prepare for the impacts of the changing climate. A sudden ice dam collapse causes a glacial lake outburst flood of enormous magnitude, leading to loss of life and destruction throughout the basin.

All indicators decrease by 1.

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood

EVENT

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The scientific partner responsible for collecting basin data is caught publishing inaccurate data, and the credibility of all previous work is called into question. A new partner will use techniques for gathering information that are very different, impacting all of the report card grades.

Reroll die on all Values.

Bad Data

EVENT

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Fires, once natural and frequent, are increasingly controlled. A difficult-to-contain wildfire ravages the basin, rejuvenating ecosystems but damaging development. New economic opportunities emerge as people rebuild.

Starting with you, each Value may choose to randomly swap their die with one from the bag and reroll.

Forest Fire

EVENT

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Uncoordinated Hydropower

EVENT

The sub-basin upstream opts to move forward with a controversial mega-dam, despite your opposition. Its location and proposed flow regime will wreak havoc on the system you depend on.

All indicators decrease by 1.

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Corruption

EVENT

The national government is caught in a corruption scandal. Resources are being reallocated as a new party settles into control.

Starting with you, each Value may choose to randomly exchange their die with one from the bag and reroll.

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REVOLUTION

Civil unrest threatens to overturn the current government. While the activity has empowered rural communities, stability—including ongoing management of natural resources—is uncertain. Do we join the cause? If yes:



+1



-1

Vote

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Vote

WATER QUALITY ACT

A proposed law would tighten restrictions on how businesses and agro-industries release waste into local waterways. Do we support the law? If yes:



+1

+1

-1

-1

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PROTECTED AREAS LEGISLATION

Conservationists seek to expand natural protected areas, restricting access for the local people who traditionally used this land for foraging and hunting. Do we support this action? If yes:



+1



-1

Vote

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Vote

NEW AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

A new technology helps crops grow in arid landscapes but requires significant amounts of water, chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Do we permit the technology? If yes:



+1

+1

-1

-1

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Vote

PESTICIDE BAN

A proposed ban on locally manufactured pesticides would reduce impacts of runoff, but farmers may make up for declines in crop yields by expanding their fields into currently pristine forests. Do we pass the ban? If yes:



+1



-1



***Reroll
your die***

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Vote

RARE METALS

After the discovery of rare metals, the government is petitioned to override protected areas and open the headwaters to exploratory mining and extraction activities. Do we support the petition? If yes:



+1



-1



***Reroll
your die***

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Vote

NEW ROAD

The public has been calling for a new road and the Department of Transportation has approved funds to build it. However, the route passes through critical habitat for the endemic river turtle. Do we approve the road? If yes:



+1



-1

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Vote

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITY

The basin management organization creates a proposal to ensure the environment is recognized as a priority user of water; however, enforcement is unclear. Do we support the proposal? If yes:



+1



***Reroll
your die***

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Vote

BOAT BAN

Boat traffic from the growing tourism industry has increased the number of river dolphin deaths. Some are proposing a boating ban, which may also impact local communities. Do we support the ban? If yes:



+1



-1



***Reroll
your die***

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Vote

FOOD CORP

An international food corporation seeks to build an alternative food processing plant with a progressive community outreach program along the river. Do we grant permission? If yes:



+1



***Reroll
your die***

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Vote

W.A.S.H. PROJECTS

An international NGO seeks to change behavior around water collection and sanitation in indigenous communities, bringing benefits but changing traditions. Do we welcome the NGO? If yes:



+1



-1

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A global funder wants to test new ways to make progress toward the UN-adopted SDGs. They are innovating how the private and public sectors can work together toward Goal 6. Do we accept the funds? If yes:



***Exchange
die with bag
and reroll***



***Exchange
die with bag
and reroll***

Vote

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Vote

FISH PROTEIN

The national government is interested in finding new ways to boost the availability of fish, including new approaches to both fishing and aquaculture. Do we embrace them?

If yes:



***Exchange
die with bag
and reroll***



***Exchange
die with bag
and reroll***

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Vote

CORPORATE LOOPHOLE

A multinational company operating in the basin discovers a loophole in wastewater regulations. The basin management organization seeks to fight back, but victory is uncertain. Do we fight? If yes:



***Exchange
die with bag
and reroll***



***Exchange
die with bag
and reroll***

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HYDROELECTRIC DAM

A carefully placed hydroelectric power plant would increase energy production and attract new businesses while minimizing environmental impacts to the river. However, it would require an indigenous community to be relocated. Do you build the dam? If yes:



+1



-1

Decide



***ECONOMIC
DECIDES***

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FLOOD AND IRRIGATION CONTROL

Building levees, channels and other infrastructure can facilitate irrigation and encourage agricultural expansion in certain parts of the basin. Do you support such development? If yes:



+1



-1

Decide



***HEALTH &
NUTRITION
DECIDES***

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WATER TREATMENT

An expensive but proven technology could counter the steadily deteriorating water quality. The technology is proprietary and heavy usage fees will be required annually. Do you import the technology? If yes:



+1



-1

Decide



***WATER QUALITY
& QUANTITY
DECIDES***

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FISHING BAN

The government has issued a fishing ban in a place where native fish populations have all but disappeared. Indigenous communities are technically exempt, as they have fished that stretch for centuries. Do you encourage them to respect the ban? If yes:



+1



-1

Decide



***SOCIAL &
CULTURAL
DECIDES***

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ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW

The Ministry of Environment proposed an environmental flow restriction to control the amount of water drawn for agricultural use, possibly to the benefit of aquatic biodiversity. Do you rally support for the restriction? If yes:



+1



-1



***Reroll
your die***

Decide



***ECOLOGY
DECIDES***

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COLLECTIVE ACTION

A coalition of businesses and communities from across the basin could help various stakeholders better share their freshwater resources, but it's uncertain how much influence or authority this organization would have. Do you establish such a coalition? If yes:



+1



-1



**Reroll
your die**

Decide



**MANAGEMENT
& GOVERNANCE
DECIDES**

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Water & Sanitation Officer



WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY

A government employee with a personal passion to ensure adequate clean water remains available for people and life systems for generations to come.

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Researcher



WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY

A university scientist exploring linkages between water quality and human health issues, with an interest in influencing national and local policies.

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Indigenous Elder



SOCIAL & CULTURAL

A new leader for your people committed to protecting ancient ways while adapting to development and new opportunities.

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Smallholder Farmer



SOCIAL & CULTURAL

Committed to maximizing the yield of lands your great-grandfather settled, which are adjacent to an indigenous community with whom your family has always had good relations.

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Government Consultant



ECONOMIC

Economist advising the government on how best to use natural resources to maximize revenue, while also being conscious of local circumstances and long-term implications.

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Food & Beverage Consultant



ECONOMIC

Originally from the impoverished countryside, now a top executive at a major food & beverage chain seeking to maximize corporate profits and improve rural livelihoods.

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Local Elected Official



MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

Currently representing your home area, but harbors national aspirations. Seeking economic and social development that provides short- and long-term benefits.

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NGO Manager



MANAGEMENT & GOVERNANCE

Founder and CEO of a nonprofit organization focused on building the resiliency of communities and nature to floods and other water disasters.

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Deputy Minister of Agriculture



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Well-connected government official seeking to curb hunger while continuing large-scale exportation of the country's produce to international markets.

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International Activist



HEALTH & NUTRITION

Expat resident, passionate about bringing access to clean water, sanitation, hygiene, food security and economic opportunities to underserved populations.

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Park Scientist



ECOLOGICAL

Employed by the government and living within a protected area, dedicated to studying the unique freshwater species that can be found only in your basin.

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Fly Fisherman



ECOLOGICAL

Building the local fly-fishing industry, as you believe eco-tourism will benefit both residents and native fish populations, while creating an economic incentive to protect the region's natural beauty.

Starting the game:

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A Role-Playing Game for River Basin Report Cards

1. Each player chooses a face down character card. In the game players will play as this character.
2. Players introduce themselves as their character.
3. Players with the same VALUE sit next to each other to form a duo. Some values will only have one player.
 - a. Each value (player or duo) gets 1 value placard and 1 vote card.
 - b. Each value (player or duo) randomly picks one die from the bag.
4. Each value rolls their die and places it on their value on the gameboard. The colors represent the initial report card grade. The numbers on the dice are just a way to track incremental improvements or degradations in the grade during the rounds of play:
 - a. **Green = Great**
 - b. **Yellow = Needs improvement**
 - c. **Red = Bad**
5. Fill out a sub-basin scorecard and give it to the Room Facilitator.
6. Place corresponding colored stickers to the grade for each value on the Value Placard, so that players can track how the grade for their value changes.
7. Tell the players how to win.

HOW TO WIN

Individual

Have the highest ranked value at your table.

Sub-basin

Have the highest ranked sub-basin in the room.

RULES

1. The game consists of three ten minute rounds.
2. Starting with the Water Quality player and moving clockwise around the table, players take turns drawing and reading aloud cards from the Basin Deck.
All players take turns drawing one card. Even if they are part of a duo.
3. Based on the card type players must take different actions which affect the dice on the board.

What's in your deck?

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GRADE

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Partnership Cards

These cards represent the formation of stakeholder partnerships, and that alliances can bring lasting results. The player that draws this card roleplays with a different value player to their left and a different value player to their right. The players to the left and right pitch why they should be the one to form a partnership with. The player who drew this card decides who has the best pitch and gives them this card.

The card is kept until the player who won it wishes to play it. It can be used for 1 of these 2 effects:

1. Overturn a Vote - when a Vote card is drawn by any player.
2. Mitigate a disaster - by protecting 2 dice from its effects.

Vote Cards

These represent policy decisions. Players vote on whether the actions on the card will happen or not. Every Value (one player or duo) gets 1 vote by displaying either the YES or NO side of their vote card. In the case of a tie, the tie is broken by the player who drew the card.

Event Cards

Event cards represent major occurrences that impact the entire sub-basin. Players must do what the card says. If a player has won a Partnership card, it can be used to mitigate negative effects of an Event.

Decision Cards

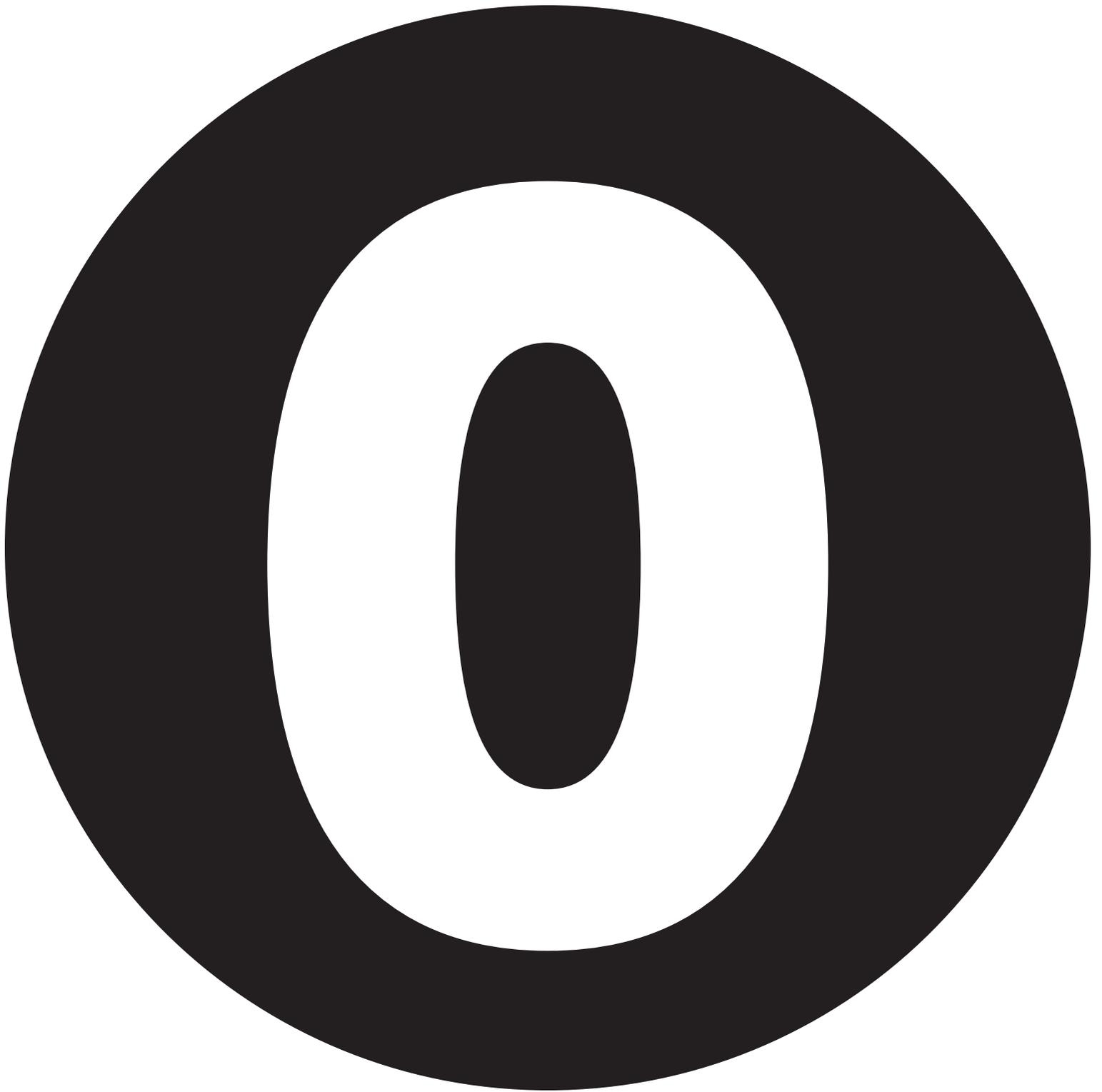
These cards represent how Values are connected, and that decisions made in isolation still affect others who share the same water resource system. That player who drew this card must first have a short roleplay with every other player their decision affects. However, regardless of the roleplay input, the deciding player or team can make any decision they want.

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Congratulations! You now have access to increased funding, technology and/or human resources. Choose one indicator and *EITHER*:

- Improve its grade by 1
- Randomly swap the die with another from the bag and reroll for a new grade

Resource Influx

Congratulations! You now have access to increased funding, technology and/or human resources. Choose one indicator and *EITHER*:

- Improve its grade by 1
- Randomly swap the die with another from the bag and reroll for a new grade

Resource Influx

Sub-basin 1

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 2

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 3

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 4

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 5

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 6

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 7

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 8

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 9

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 10

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 11

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 12

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 13

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:

Sub-basin 14

 water quality + quantity	0	1	2
 ecological	0	1	2
 health + nutrition	0	1	2
 management + governance	0	1	2
 economic	0	1	2
 social + cultural	0	1	2

grade total:



Water Quality & Quantity



Social & Cultural



Economic



Management & Governance



Health & Nutrition



Ecological

score	grade
11-12	A
9-10	B
7-8	C
5-6	D
0-4	F

SEY



NO

