



The Aquara Constitution
Initial Draft





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Aquara Draft Constitution & Code of Conduct

Preamble

The Aquara DAO and the Aquara Foundation exist to protect water as a shared, living resource — essential to all life and belonging to no one alone.

Our mission is to democratize water finance and governance, ensuring that the systems protecting our planet's most vital resource are transparent, sustainable, and directed by the people they serve.

Aquara builds toward a future where access to clean water is a universal right, and where technology and decentralized finance help safeguard that right for generations to come.

We are guided by global principles, including:

- **United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292** (United Nations, 2010), recognizing access to clean water and sanitation as a **fundamental human right**.
- **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)**, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- **Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)**, promoting quality education — a principle reflected in Aquara's commitment to knowledge-sharing, transparency, and participatory governance.

Through education, community leadership, and decentralized finance, Aquara strives to build a new global model — one where water is protected not by privilege or profit, but by collective stewardship and open collaboration.

Interim Stewardship

Until full decentralization is achieved, Aquara Foundation and its appointed technical partner, Kaitiaki Systems, will act as initial stewards of Aquara's infrastructure, ensuring the secure operation, transparency, and integrity of the system.

Their mandate is temporary and accountable to the community, ending once governance transitions to the DAO and its elected councils.



The Principle of Kaitiakitanga — Guardianship of Water and Life

*At the heart of Aquara lies the spirit of **Kaitiakitanga** — a Māori principle meaning guardianship, care, and stewardship of the natural world.*

It reflects a sacred responsibility: to protect what sustains us, not as owners, but as caretakers for future generations.

Aquara adopts this principle as a guiding ethos — blending ancient wisdom with modern technology to build a system where every holder, partner, and participant becomes a guardian of water.

In this spirit, the Aquara Foundation and community recognize that water is not a commodity to be owned, but a living resource to be respected, shared, and preserved.





Guiding Principles

1. Water as a Human Right

Water is not a commodity—it is life itself. Access to clean and safe water is a fundamental human right, as recognized by the United Nations.

Aquara exists to defend and advance this right through transparent, decentralized systems that make water finance open, accountable, and fair.

Our treasury and governance model are built to support communities, not exploit them — ensuring that the benefits of water-related investments flow back into the systems that protect people and the planet.

2. Decentralized Governance and Community Voice

Those who are most affected by water challenges must have a voice in how water is managed.

Aquara empowers local communities and stakeholders through on-chain governance, giving holders, councils, and delegates (DReps) the ability to participate directly in decision-making.

We honor customary, indigenous, and community-based knowledge as integral to sustainable management. Aquara's governance model bridges traditional stewardship with modern digital tools — ensuring that decisions are made collectively, transparently, and with long-term responsibility in mind.

3. Fair Access and Responsible Value

Aquara recognizes that sustainable water management requires both access and accountability.

Through transparent treasury systems, we strive to create fair financial models that support sustainable infrastructure and innovation — without turning water itself into a speculative asset.

Our approach aims to:

- *Protect vulnerable communities from financial and environmental exploitation*
- *Encourage efficient and equitable water use*
- *Maintain transparency in how resources and capital are distributed*

By aligning economics with ethics, Aquara redefines how value flows in the global water economy.



4. Environmental Stewardship and Regeneration

Aquara's commitment to water protection begins with nature.

Healthy ecosystems — from wetlands to aquifers — form the foundation of all life.

Through its treasury and partnerships, Aquara supports nature-based solutions and technologies that restore balance between people and the planet.

Our initiatives will include:

- *Investing in ecosystem restoration and watershed resilience*
- *Supporting sustainable agriculture and water-efficient technologies*
- *Partnering with local and global organizations to expand conservation efforts*

Environmental regeneration isn't a byproduct of Aquara's mission — it is the core outcome we measure success by.

5. Transparency, Accountability, and Education

Decentralization means nothing without trust.

Aquara is committed to radical transparency — ensuring every transaction, decision, and impact report is publicly verifiable on-chain.

We also recognize education as a powerful tool for change.

By sharing open data, creating educational resources, and engaging the public in water governance, Aquara fosters a global movement of informed, responsible participants — not just investors, but stewards of the world's most essential resource.



Code of Conduct for Operations

1. Respect for Local Laws, Cultures, and Sovereignty

Aquara operates with full respect for the laws, customs, and cultural practices that govern water across the world.

We recognize that water systems are deeply rooted in local histories and community relationships — not just infrastructure or markets.

In every partnership or project, Aquara will:

- *Comply with local and international frameworks, such as the EU Water Framework Directive and United Nations water conventions.*
- *Engage with local authorities, water boards, and Indigenous custodians to ensure their rights, perspectives, and customary laws are respected.*
- *Prioritize co-design — ensuring that local stakeholders shape how projects are developed and implemented.*

Aquara's decentralized model does not override existing governance — it supports and enhances it through transparency, accountability, and shared stewardship.

We believe sustainable water management emerges from collaboration between local wisdom and digital transparency, not top-down control.

2. Fairness and Anti-Exploitation

Fairness is non-negotiable.

Aquara stands firmly against any form of water grabbing, private hoarding, or exploitative control that limits equitable access.

All treasury-backed investments and DAO-approved projects must uphold three principles:

- **Local benefit first** — projects must directly improve water access, infrastructure, or sustainability for nearby communities.
- **Long-term stewardship** — resources must remain available for future generations.



- **Ethical finance** — no Aquara funding shall support extraction or privatization that contradicts our mission of shared benefit.

Aquara's blockchain-based governance ensures every transaction and investment remains transparent, verifiable, and accountable to the community.

Because in a truly decentralized system, value and responsibility must be shared equally.

3. Sustainable Development and Innovation

For Aquara, sustainability means balancing three pillars:

- **Economic viability** — ensuring financial health and long-term value creation through the Aquara Treasury.
- **Environmental protection** — safeguarding natural ecosystems that sustain global water cycles.
- **Social well-being** — empowering communities through fair access and participation.

Aquara actively funds and supports:

- Water-efficient technologies, clean energy integration, and circular water systems.
- Innovative start-ups and companies developing sustainable water solutions.
- Educational initiatives that promote responsible water governance and decentralized innovation.

Each investment must meet transparent sustainability criteria defined by the DAO — ensuring every decision supports both the planet's resilience and the ecosystem's financial integrity.

4. Alignment with Climate and Global Goals

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time — and water is at its heart.

Aquara aligns with international climate frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and IPCC adaptation strategies, integrating climate resilience into every layer of its treasury and governance operations.

Aquara will:

- Prioritize investments that reduce water-related emissions and energy use.



- *Support projects that build resilience in drought- and flood-affected regions.*
- *Leverage blockchain tools to measure, verify, and publicly report environmental impact.*

By merging decentralized finance with climate action, Aquara ensures that every holder contributes to a collective, measurable impact — protecting the planet's most vital resource from both environmental and financial exploitation.





A New Framework for Valuing Water

Water's value extends far beyond price.

Inspired by thinkers such as Amartya Sen (1999) on human capability, Vandana Shiva (2002) on water democracy, Elinor Ostrom (1990) on community governance, and Jeffrey Sachs (2015) on sustainable development, Aquara envisions a multi-dimensional framework for valuing water — one that unites economics, ecology, and ethics under a decentralized system.

Traditional finance measures water by scarcity and profit.

Aquara redefines it through impact, transparency, and shared stewardship — translating water's true worth into a digital economy that protects rather than exploits.

Aquara Water Valuation Framework

1

Scarcity - Rarity & local supply



2

Utility - Human & economic use



3

Sustainability Impact - Long-term ecological & social value



Inspired by Sen (1999), Sachs (2015), Shiva (2002), Ostrom (1990).

Inspired by Sen (1999), Sachs (2015), Shiva (2002), Ostrom (1990).

3

ecological & social value
sustainability impact - Long-term



Our approach will consider water's value in several important areas, including:



1. Social and Human Value

Water is the foundation of health, dignity, and human potential.

For billions, access to clean water determines whether they can study, work, or simply live well.

Aquara recognizes that equitable access is a prerequisite for freedom.

Through its decentralized treasury, Aquara aims to direct capital toward systems and innovations that expand access — from local water technology start-ups to global infrastructure networks.

This ensures that the benefits of finance flow toward human well-being, not speculation.

2. Global Commons and Shared Responsibility

Water transcends borders, economies, and ownership.

It is part of the global commons, and managing it demands cooperation, transparency, and shared responsibility.

Aquara's governance model reflects this reality — combining decentralized decision-making with traceable funding streams that connect holders to real-world water outcomes.

By aligning blockchain transparency with sustainability goals, Aquara transforms global responsibility into verifiable, collective action.

Every holder becomes a steward of a shared resource — a participant in protecting ecosystems, stabilizing the climate, and securing water for generations to come.

3. Cultural and Spiritual Connection

Across the world, water symbolizes renewal, cleansing, and life itself.

From Indigenous cosmologies to modern conservation ethics, water has always been sacred — not owned, but entrusted.

Aquara embraces this understanding by grounding its governance in Kaitiakitanga — the principle of guardianship.

This means every decision, vote, and investment must reflect care, balance, and respect for the living systems that sustain us.

Through this fusion of cultural wisdom and digital transparency, Aquara redefines what it means to “own” an asset: to hold it in trust for the world that comes after.



4. Economic and Digital Value

Aquara's framework introduces a new dimension to how water's value is expressed — one that combines tangible water-sector assets with digital governance and tokenized participation.

In this model:

- *Water assets anchor stability and sustainability.*
- *Bitcoin provides liquidity, global interoperability, and financial growth potential.*
- *DAO governance ensures decisions reflect ethical, social, and environmental priorities, not speculation.*

This integrated approach allows Aquara to translate moral and ecological value into transparent, measurable financial systems — proving that finance can serve both profit and purpose.





Alignment with UN and International Water Standards

Aquara's mission is grounded in globally recognized human rights and sustainability frameworks.

We share the conviction that access to safe water is not a privilege, but a universal right — and that the systems managing it must evolve toward fairness, transparency, and shared stewardship.

UN Human Rights and Sustainability Goals

*Aquara aligns with **United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292 (2010)**, which recognizes access to clean water and sanitation as a fundamental human right.*

*Our work also advances **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6)** — ensuring availability and sustainable management of water for all — alongside related goals like **SDG 13 (Climate Action)** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**.*

Through its treasury and DAO governance model, Aquara translates these commitments into action — funding projects, start-ups, and infrastructure that directly expand global water access while maintaining transparency and accountability on-chain.

The Dublin Principles on Water (1992)

The Dublin Principles recognize water as both an economic good and a vital environmental and social resource (International Conference on Water and the Environment, 1992).

Aquara builds upon this dual perspective:

- **Water as a right** — essential to life and equity.
- **Water as value** — the backbone of sustainable finance.

By connecting water-related assets and technologies to decentralized finance, Aquara ensures that water's value supports regeneration, not exploitation — turning its economic potential into a driver of conservation and equity.

The Global Water Partnership's Integrated Vision

*The **Global Water Partnership (n.d.)** advocates for an integrated approach to managing water across agriculture, industry, and domestic sectors.*



Aquara embraces this principle by funding innovation at all levels of the water cycle — from smart infrastructure to community-based management systems.

Our treasury model channels resources into initiatives that enhance efficiency, circular water use, and climate resilience, ensuring that every investment supports the shared goal of sustainable water access.

The OECD Water Governance Initiative (2015)

Aquara strongly supports the OECD's Water Governance Initiative, which calls for transparency, participation, and accountability in water decision-making.

These principles are embedded in Aquara's DAO structure:

- **Transparency:** All financial flows and votes are publicly verifiable on-chain.
- **Participation:** Tokenholders and local partners can propose and vote on treasury allocations.
- **Accountability:** Community oversight ensures funds are used ethically and for measurable impact.

In doing so, Aquara goes beyond compliance — it operationalizes good governance through technology, setting a new global benchmark for decentralized water management.

Global Stewardship in Action

Aquara's alignment with international standards is not symbolic — it is structural. Through transparent finance, equitable governance, and impact-backed assets, Aquara brings these global goals to life in a self-sustaining digital ecosystem that grows stronger as more communities participate.

By bridging UN frameworks with decentralized finance, Aquara is creating a new global standard for water stewardship — one that empowers people everywhere to protect and govern the planet's most essential resource.



Governance and Accountability

Aquara's governance is built on decentralized participation, transparency, and real-world responsibility.

Through the Aquara DAO, decisions about treasury allocations, partnerships, and ecosystem growth will be made openly, with every action recorded on-chain.

This ensures that Aquara's mission — protecting water as a global public good — is upheld through **collective intelligence** rather than centralized control.

1. Integration of Global Standards

Aquara's governance principles align with internationally recognized frameworks, including those advanced by the International Water Resources Association (IWRA) and the OECD Water Governance Initiative, as well as emerging best practices from Blockchain for Good initiatives (IBM, 2023).

These standards are woven directly into Aquara's smart-contract and policy architecture, ensuring that:

- All treasury and project decisions respect international water rights and sustainability norms.
- DAO-approved investments contribute to global goals like SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).
- Transparency, participation, and accountability remain measurable and verifiable through the blockchain itself.

Aquara's DAO doesn't simply mirror traditional governance — it augments it by making global standards executable in code.

2. Incentive-Driven Participation

The Aquara DAO uses positive incentives to promote active, meaningful engagement. Members who contribute to governance, research, or project development may earn:

- Governance Credits or Reputation Points that enhance influence in proposal discussions.
- Access to innovation grants or Launchpad opportunities for water-related start-ups.



- Recognition and delegation trust within councils or specialized committees.

These incentives connect participation with real-world outcomes — rewarding behaviors that expand water access, strengthen sustainability, and advance Aquara’s mission of decentralized stewardship.

3. Transparent Accountability and Ethical Enforcement

Accountability within Aquara is designed to educate and protect — not punish. All governance activities are traceable on-chain, and every community-related dispute or breach follows a transparent review process.

- **Education First:** Minor misunderstandings or process errors are addressed through feedback and collaborative resolution.
- **Community Review:** Repeated or deliberate violations (e.g., misuse of funds, false reporting, unethical conduct) trigger DAO-level review by relevant councils (Governance, Treasury, or Ethics).
- **Sanctions and Restorative Measures:** If necessary, penalties may include temporary suspension of governance rights, loss of reputation points, or exclusion from treasury proposals — always voted on transparently by the DAO.

This layered accountability system balances freedom with responsibility, ensuring Aquara remains open, fair, and mission-aligned.

4. Evolutionary Governance

Aquara’s governance is not static; it evolves with community feedback and technology. Every 12 months, the DAO will review and refine its operational framework, incorporating insights from on-chain data, stakeholder reports, and impact metrics.

Through this adaptive model, Aquara becomes stronger, more democratic, and more aligned with the real-world ecosystems it aims to protect — demonstrating that decentralization, ethics, and sustainability can coexist in one system.



Vision for the Future

Aquara's vision is a world where water is governed transparently, financed responsibly, and protected collectively.

We are building the systems that will make this possible — not by controlling water, but by creating a decentralized treasury and governance model that supports those who safeguard it.

At the heart of this future is a digital water economy powered by transparency and shared stewardship.

Aquara's treasury connects real-world water assets and Bitcoin with a governance system where communities, stakeholders, and organizations can help shape how capital flows into water innovation and conservation.

Over time, this model will enable blockchain-based verification of water systems, allowing utilities, governments, and citizens to trace water reserves, infrastructure investments, and project outcomes in real time.

Rather than replacing existing institutions, Aquara's network will strengthen them — providing financial transparency, community participation, and data integrity where they are needed most.

Global Collaboration and Scalability

Aquara will collaborate with water utilities, NGOs, environmental organizations, local governments, and decentralized communities to connect funding, data, and governance into one open ecosystem.

Our investments are designed to scale — adaptable across regions facing drought, contamination, or conservation needs — ensuring that every partnership strengthens both financial sustainability and ecological balance.

A Living Framework for the Future

The Aquara Constitution & Code of Conduct serves as the foundation of this mission — a living document that evolves with the community while safeguarding the project's integrity.

As Aquara transitions toward full decentralization, this Constitution will guide how decisions are made, how funds are governed, and how our shared values endure over time.

To remain transparent and fair:

- *Proposed changes to the Constitution will follow a clearly defined process open to all holders.*



- *Updates must align with Aquara's core mission — sustainability, water access, and decentralized governance.*
- *Major amendments will require DAO approval, ensuring that every voice in the community is represented.*

*This approach ensures that Aquara remains adaptive, fair, and principled — evolving with technology and society while staying true to its purpose:
to make water finance open, democratic, and sustainable for generations to come.*

To explore source materials and deeper context, see the Reference List at the end of the full Aquara Whitepaper.