

WATERPRENEURS POLICY ON PARTNERSHIPS

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Introduction

The purpose of Waterpreneurs is to support the scaling-up of impact investment for the growth of local water entrepreneurs who contribute to the realisation of the human right to water and sanitation.

The purpose of the Waterpreneurs Policy on Partnerships is to set an ethical frame and guide the organization when entering into any sort of partnership at a global, regional or national level.

Waterpreneurs works in an inclusive and neutral approach with all stakeholders, ranging from the public sector to business and civil society. We are convinced that a multi-stakeholder approach is the best way forward to secure safe access to water and sanitation worldwide.

In order to have a systemic impact, Waterpreneurs is focusing on setting up *strategic partnerships* to build on the expertise and commitment of our partners in order to make effective and sustainable change happen in each river basin and at global level, rather than focusing on building internal expertise and internal growth. This is what we call the **Waterpreneurs Systemic and Holistic Approach**.

Waterpreneurs values and seeks *long-term alliances* and welcomes partnerships that provide opportunities for mutual benefits and enhanced results, adding value and augmenting the impact of any single organization.

Values & Principles

Waterpreneurs aims to work in partnership with any stakeholder, be it government, international organization, academic institution, company, civil society organization or any other entity which has an affinity and shared-commitment to support a Waterpreneurs process or activity. Our work will follow the defined set of values and uphold our principles noted below. Waterpreneurs requires its partners to respect Waterpreneurs Values in the implementation of joint activities. Waterpreneurs Values are:

Neutrality	Waterpreneurs is committed to build dialog among water stakeholders. It therefore can only enter an agreement with one specific water stakeholder if and when Waterpreneurs facilitating role is fully respected.
Independence	Waterpreneurs is committed to support sustainable water resources management which respects ecosystem needs and the realization of basic human rights. It therefore pays great attention not to be influenced by any stakeholder in the definition and implementation of its operations to fulfil its commitment to the realization of the human right to water and sanitation.
Transparency	Waterpreneurs is committed to share transparently to its partners – its activities, revenues and funding sources, internal procedures and processes, and expects its partners to reciprocate.
Respect	Waterpreneurs is committed to work <i>a priori</i> with any water stakeholder that is prepared to cooperate with other stakeholders; in a respectful manner, and encouraging positive dialogue and cooperation across partnerships for mutual success.
Inclusiveness and Inter-connectedness	Waterpreneurs works with an integrated approach. Multi-stakeholder inclusiveness is a key component of all Waterpreneurs projects and processes, and this inter-connected method ensures that our work will secure the buy-in of all water stakeholders.

Obligations of Waterpreneurs Partners

Waterpreneurs engages with partners that respect and support its Values. Waterpreneurs encourages compliance with its Values during the performance of its activities and encourages all partners to find ways to address water issues within a human rights framework.

Waterpreneurs requires its partners to specify in framework and/or implementation contracts (incl. Memoranda of Understanding) the consequences of breach by any partner of the Waterpreneurs Values.

Waterpreneurs requires its partners working in the implementation of a joint activity to **hold a sincere commitment to sustainable water management and environmental sustainability** in operations and practices. This commitment shall include, in particular:

- The commitment to undertake appropriate risk-mitigation steps (including water-saving technologies, reduction of water-rights in case of overuse of the resource and/or competition with water-related human rights of local populations); and
- The commitment to support independent water use and pollution monitoring.

Waterpreneurs requires from partners a sincere commitment to **human rights compliance**:

- For Governments and public actors, such commitment has to be reflected in a legally binding commitment.
- It has to be reflected in internal procedures and external commitments of non-state actors.

Waterpreneurs requires its partners to disclose to Waterpreneurs what they consider to be the expression of their commitment to human rights compliance during the process leading to the formalization of the partnership agreement.

Provisions on Financial Support

Waterpreneurs adheres to the following rules before agreeing to any financial support for Waterpreneurs services:

- No financial support shall affect Waterpreneurs compliance with its Core Values (see in particular - Neutrality; Independence and Transparency);
- All financial supports should contribute to the implementation of the Waterpreneurs Core Approach (i.e. best-interest of local populations for the human rights component; protection of the environment);
- The consideration and the rights and duties of parties in relation to financial support for a specific program or project of Waterpreneurs must be detailed and specified in advance in a written agreement.
- Waterpreneurs Partners are a source of potential partnership and financial support. These Partners have extensive networks that Waterpreneurs should respect and engage with as much as possible, and steward the scaling-up of impact through the networks.

Waterpreneurs does not accept financial support from government, companies or other funders whose practices include the following:

- Activities that demonstrate a systematic disregard for human rights and/or environmental protection;
- Proof of harming people or communities through knowingly and persistently neglecting human rights;
- Facing legal action for violation of international humanitarian, environmental or financial standards or codes of conduct.