

# THE WEC INITIATIVE

**What is it?**

## The Water Ethics Charter Initiative

- \* Provides a moral basis for water management decisions
- \* Reflects a common determination to promote water ethics and bring it into the public sphere and political agenda
- \* Acknowledges the plurality of values, visions and opinions related to ethics of water in the name of a common challenge: defining our relation to water in the Anthropocene
- \* Is the result of a recommendation of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Marseille, France, March 2012

**The Water Ethics Charter Initiative is an ongoing process**

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## Who are we?

- \* **The Steering Committee:** Currently composed of 9 international organizations: *Alliance for Water Stewardship, Botin Foundation, Centre for Research on Water Use Ethics, Club of Rome, French Water Academy, Indigenous Environmental Network, UNESCO, Water-Culture Institute, and Water Youth Network.* The Committee leads the implementation of the initiative and gives technical guidance.
- \* **The Advisory Board:** An open body that gathers members and partners and whose role is to provide technical and operational advice on the process and progress of the Initiative.

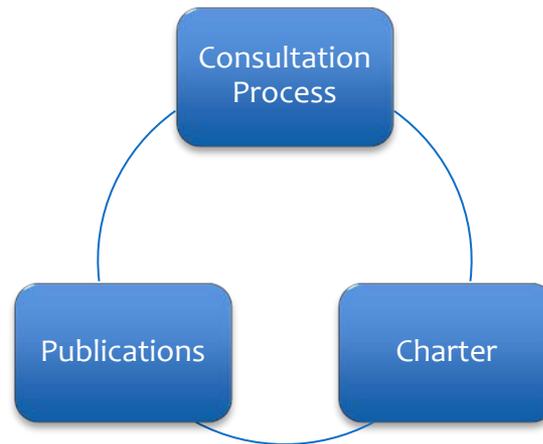
## What do we want to do?

- \* Develop consensus around a clear set of ethical principles for the management of freshwater, which will form the content of the Water Ethics Charter.
- \* Trigger an actual shift in the minds of people as to the values of water as a precious resource through the exchange of values, principles, and action
- \* Bring water ethics into the public sphere and political agenda

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## How does it work?

- Based on multiple phases of wide consultations among a variety of stakeholders from various geographical and sectorial backgrounds.
- Invites parties to contribute to the Charter with their own perspective on water ethics.



- The Charter, along with supporting publications, will be the tangible outcome of the process.
- The Charter will reflect the shared values of the diverse parties involved in the consultation process

- Based on the work that UNESCO conducted ten years ago through the COMEST and IHP, a scientific committee will launch a new series of studies on water ethics.

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## What can you do?

All contributions are welcome both on the content and the structure of the Charter (see Word doc. attached).

The legitimacy of a WEC Initiative can only be built through a genuine consultation process. Help us reach out to, and collect feedback from, as many stakeholders as possible, around the world.

- \* **Content building:** Your input is critical. It will enrich the content of the Charter in a document that not only recognizes and accepts the diversity of opinions, but promotes it
- \* **Endorsing:** Institutions from around the world are invited to help disseminate the Initiative, and endorse the Charter
- \* **Funding:** If you recognize your own principles or those of your institution in the WEC Initiative, you can also decide to support it financially.

Content  
Building

Endorsing

Funding