



WATER POSITIVE THINK TANK GOVERNANCE CHARTER

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SECTION 1 — INTRODUCTION

Clause 1.1 — Purpose of the Governance Charter

1.1.1 The Governance Charter establishes the formal structures, principles and procedures that regulate the governance of the Water Positive Initiative.

1.1.2 Its purpose is to ensure transparency, accountability, coordination and institutional consistency across all activities and governance bodies of the initiative.

1.1.3 This Charter provides a shared reference for all members involved in governance, enabling clarity of roles, responsibilities and decision-making.

1.1.4 It aims to protect the neutrality, scientific integrity and organizational credibility of the Water Positive Think Tank.

Clause 1.2 — Nature and Character of the Initiative

1.2.1 Water Positive is a global, non-profit, multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to advancing water positivity, defined in Clause 1.4.

1.2.2 It convenes experts, practitioners, institutions, companies and communities committed to improving water systems through collaboration, science and innovation.

1.2.3 The initiative operates as a flat hierarchy with cross-functional teams, as defined in Section 2. It is grounded in the principles of collaborative governance and co-leadership.

1.2.4 No individual, company, institution or interest group may exercise disproportionate influence over the initiative's governance or scientific direction.

1.2.5 Water Positive operates independently from commercial, partisan or ideological agendas, maintaining neutrality and openness.

Clause 1.3 — Structure of the Governance Charter

1.3.1 This Charter includes:

- a) vision, mission and principles (Clause 1.4);
- b) governance structure and leadership roles (Section 2);
- c) decision-making procedures (Section 3);
- d) ethics, integrity and conflict of interest policy (Section 4);
- e) collaboration protocols between committees (Section 5);
- f) communications protocol and public representation roles (Section 6);
- g) meetings, internal procedures and documentation standards (Section 7)
- h) membership roles and responsibilities (Section 8)
- i) amendments, review cycles and transitional provisions (Section 9)

1.3.2 Annexes may be added to provide templates, tools or methodological instruction.

1.3.3 In case of conflict between an annex and the Charter, the Charter prevails.

Clause 1.4 — Vision, Mission and Principles

1.4.1 — Vision

Water Positive envisions a future in which individuals, organizations and communities become water stewards, contributing to sustainable water use, ecosystem health and societal resilience. Our goal is to foster innovative and sustainable water management solutions through research, policy analysis, and multi-sector collaboration, aiming to achieve a lasting and positive impact on water conservation and efficiency at a global scale.

1.4.2 — Mission

To promote and support practices that increase water availability, restore ecosystems, encourage innovation, and empower entities such as corporations, institutions, communities and territories to adopt water-positive approaches.

This is achieved through collaboration, scientific evidence, capacity building, education and the co-creation of tools and methodologies.

The vision and mission articulated herein shall guide all governance decisions, committee mandates, strategic actions and collaborative processes defined in this Charter.

1.4.3 Water Positive Think Tank Principles:

1.4.3.1 - Transforming the Future of Water

The WPTT rejects the acceptance of apocalyptic scenarios related to the global water crisis. It firmly believes that the future is not written and that current projections can be changed through concrete, collaborative, and sustainable actions.

1.4.3.2 - Democratizing Knowledge

Access to knowledge should be equitable and accessible to all. The WPTT promotes the dissemination of scientific, technical, and social information about water, ensuring that communities, businesses, and governments can make informed decisions to address the water crisis.

1.4.3.3 - Unity in Action

The WPTT is founded on the premise that we are all equal and share the responsibility of advocating for positive impacts on water resources. All members have the right to request access to any working group, as we maintain a governance structure accessible to everyone. Our President and Vice President represent us in protocol matters when required by an organization, ensuring that leadership is participative and democratic.

1.4.3.4 - Open Governance and Ecosystem Integrity

The WPTT operates as an open, collaborative platform designed to support and amplify existing water-related organizations and initiatives rather than replicate them. As a fully virtual, volunteer-driven community, it strengthens the broader water ecosystem through cooperation, shared knowledge, and active participation in global events and initiatives. Its governance model is transparent and participatory: decisions outside working groups are voted on by members, quarterly meetings are open to all, and leadership roles are renewed every two years based on integrity and contribution. By remaining independent from funding structures and institutional competition, the WPTT relies on the commitment and collective action of its members to foster meaningful collaboration and positive impact on water resources.

1.4.3.5 - Advocacy

The WPTT advocates for the transformation of how business is done, setting a joint mission for waterpositivity. This means going a step further from conservation alone and committing to returning to the ecosystem every drop taken from it.

Clause 1.5 — Governance Principles

1.5.1 — Transparency: Governance processes and decisions shall be clearly documented and accessible to all members of the Think Tank..

1.5.2 — Inclusiveness and Participation: The initiative shall ensure meaningful participation across diverse regions, sectors, disciplines and backgrounds.

1.5.3 — Neutrality and Independence: Scientific, technical and methodological work must remain independent from commercial influence or promotional interests.

1.5.4 — Scientific Rigor: All technical content shall be grounded in evidence and validated through the Scientific & Technical Council and/or Frameworks Committee.

1.5.5 — Accountability and Shared Responsibility: All governance bodies, defined in Section 2, share responsibility for upholding this Charter and ensuring proper communication and coordination.

1.5.6 — Collaboration and Coherence: Committees shall collaborate according to the protocols established in this charter, respecting mandates and avoiding duplication.

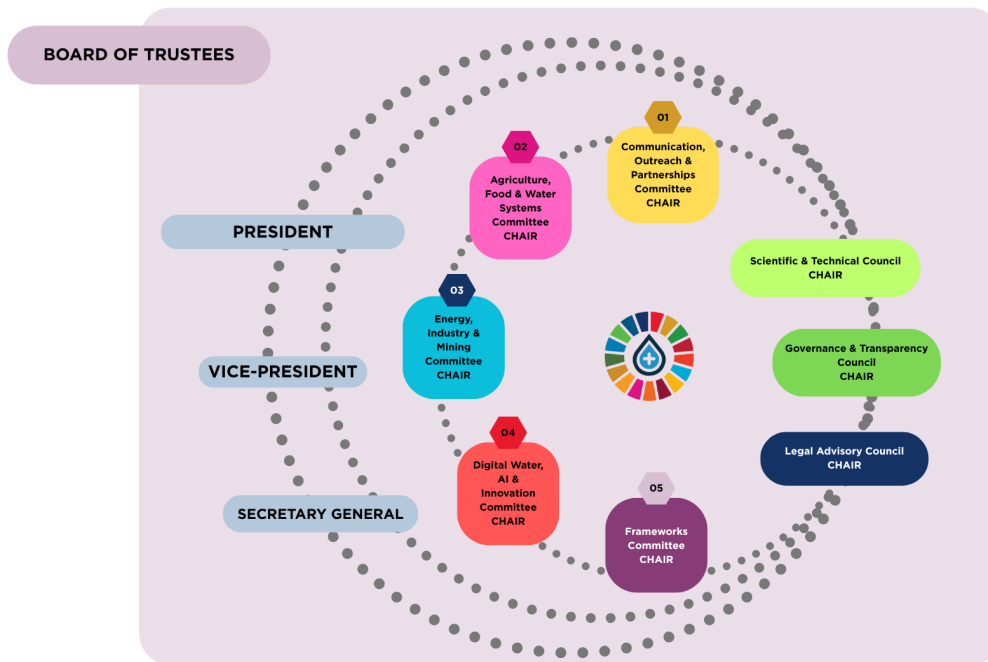
1.5.7 — Integrity of Purpose: All actions shall align with the mission and objective of Water Positive and contribute to its long-term credibility and impact.

Clause 1.6 — Applicability and Binding Nature

- 1.6.1 This Charter applies to all governance bodies, committees, councils, working groups and members within the Water Positive Think Tank.
- 1.6.2 By accepting a governance role, individuals agree to comply with all provisions herein.
- 1.6.3 Committees may adopt internal procedures provided they remain consistent with the Charter.
- 1.6.4 Interpretation disputes shall be referred to the Governance & Transparency Committee and, if needed, escalated to the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2 — GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP ROLES

2.1 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Clause 2.1.1 — Definition and Role

- 2.1.1.1 The Board of Trustees is the highest governance and decision-making authority of the Water Positive Initiative.
- 2.1.1.2 It ensures institutional coherence, strategic alignment, scientific integrity and adherence to the governance principles defined in Section 1.
- 2.1.1.3 The Board acts as the guardian of the mission, vision and objective of Water Positive and is responsible for preserving the neutrality and credibility of the initiative.

Clause 2.1.2 — Composition

- 2.1.2.1 The Board of Trustees is composed of:
- The President (Chair of the Board)
 - The Vice President (Deputy Chair)
 - The Secretary General
 - Council Chairs: Governance & Transparency Council, Scientific & Technical Council (STC) & Legal Advisory Council
 - One officially appointed committee Chair (or Vice-Chair in case of representation) from each of the following committees and councils:
 - Communications, Outreach & Partnerships Committee
 - Agriculture, Food & Water Systems Committee
 - Energy, Industry & Mining Committee
 - Digital Water, AI & Innovation Committee
 - Frameworks Committee
- 2.1.2.2 Representatives must be formally designated by their respective committees.
- 2.1.2.3 Each representative assumes full responsibility for maintaining consistent communication between their committee and the Board.

Clause 2.1.3 — Mandate

- 2.1.3.1 The Board of Trustees shall:
- establish strategic orientations of the initiative;
 - approve governance documents, including this charter and its amendments;
 - approve institutional and strategic partnerships;
 - ensure alignment of committees with the mission and objective of Water Positive;
 - oversee the integrity of governance processes;

- f) validate the Water Positive Framework and major methodological updates;
- g) ensure independence from commercial or partisan influences.

2.1.3.2 The Board is responsible for safeguarding the long-term continuity, neutrality and scientific credibility of the initiative.

Clause 2.1.4 — Roles and Responsibilities

2.1.4.1 The Board has exclusive authority over:

- a) strategic decisions as defined in Section 3;
- b) approval or revocation of partnerships;
- c) adoption of amendments to this Governance charter;
- d) approval of committee mandates and structural adjustments;
- e) institutional communications of major relevance;
- f) conflict resolution escalated beyond committee level.

2.1.4.2 The Board may mandate committees to perform operational or technical tasks but retains final decision-making authority.

2.1.4.3 The Board is responsible for ensuring the transparency and accessibility of governance decisions to relevant internal stakeholders.

Clause 2.1.5 — Duties of Board Representatives

2.1.5.1 Each Board Representative shall:

- a) participate actively and regularly in Board meetings;
- b) communicate Board decisions to their respective committees;
- c) bring committee concerns, proposals and insights to the Board;
- d) ensure internal alignment with governance principles;
- e) uphold neutrality and avoid conflicts of interest.

2.1.5.2 Failure to fulfil representational duties may result in replacement at the discretion of the committee involved.

Clause 2.1.6 — Meetings

2.1.6.1 The Board shall meet regularly as determined in Section 3 (Decision-Making Procedures).

2.1.6.2 Special or extraordinary meetings may be convened when urgent matters arise.

2.1.6.3 Meetings may be held virtually, in person or in hybrid format.

Clause 2.1.7 — Quorum and Voting

2.1.7.1 Quorum and voting rules are defined in Clause 3.4 of this charter and are binding for all Board sessions.

Clause 2.1.8 — Record-Keeping and Transparency

2.1.8.1 All Board decisions must be documented by the Governance & Transparency Committee in the Decision Register.

2.1.8.2 Key decisions shall be communicated internally through official channels.

Clause 2.1.9 — Accountability

2.1.9.1 The Board is collectively accountable for the overall governance, performance and institutional integrity of Water Positive.

2.2 GOVERNANCE & TRANSPARENCY COUNCIL

Clause 2.2.1 — Definition and Role

2.2.1.1 The Governance & Transparency Council (GTC) is the body responsible for ensuring the integrity, transparency, procedural order and compliance of the Water Positive Initiative, including:

- a) verify that Strategic, Operational, Technical and Joint decisions follow Section 3;
- b) ensure quorum requirements are met;
- c) check compliance with documentation standards (Section 7);
- d) confirm that STC and FC validations occur when required.

2.2.1.2 The Council safeguards the governance system by maintaining internal processes, monitoring adherence to this charter and supporting the Board of Trustees in procedural, ethical and administrative matters.

2.2.1.3 The GTC functions as the institutional backbone of governance, ensuring fairness, consistency, documentation and clarity across all committees.

Clause 2.2.2 — Mandate

2.2.2.1 The GTC shall:

- a) uphold the governance principles established in Section 1;
 - b) oversee compliance with all clauses in this Charter;
 - c) manage governance documentation and records;
 - d) ensure transparency in decision-making;
 - e) support the Board in procedural governance;
 - f) coordinate ethical oversight and conflict-of-interest processes;
 - g) monitor adherence to collaboration protocols;
 - h) ensure internal communication channels function effectively.
 - i) mediate disputes as defined in Section 5;
 - j) oversee the onboarding process for new members.
-

Clause 2.2.3 — Responsibilities

2.2.3.1 — Governance Procedures

The Council shall:

- a) define, maintain and update procedural standards;

- b) ensure that meetings across all governance bodies follow established protocols;
- c) verify that decisions are taken with proper quorum and voting rules;
- d) support committees in developing internal operating rules consistent with this charter.

2.2.3.2 — Documentation and Records

The Council shall maintain:

- a) the Decision Register;
- b) minutes of Board meetings;
- c) governance archives;
- d) versions of this charter and amendments;
- e) templates and official governance documents.

2.2.3.3 — Transparency and Internal Communication

The GTC ensures:

- a) timely communication of Board decisions to committees;
- b) integrity and accessibility of governance documents;
- c) proper use of official communication channels;
- d) accountability of representatives regarding information flow.

2.2.3.4 — Conflict of Interest Oversight

The Council shall:

- a) manage disclosures of potential, actual or perceived conflicts;
- b) maintain a confidential registry;
- c) advise the Board when restrictions or recusals are required;
- d) ensure compliance with Section 4 on Ethics and Conflict of Interest.

2.2.3.5 — Procedural Support to the Board

The GTC shall:

- a) advise the Board on governance structure, procedures, amendments and compliance;
- b) prepare procedural reports when required;
- c) support extraordinary review processes as outlined in Section 9.

2.2.3.6 — Compliance and Monitoring

The Committee shall:

- a) monitor adherence to timelines, procedures and responsibilities;
- b) ensure committees are functioning according to Section 2;
- c) request progress updates as needed;
- d) report systemic concerns to the Board.

Clause 2.2.4 — Authority

2.2.4.1 The GTC does not make strategic decisions but has the authority to:

- a) enforce adherence to procedural rules;
- b) request corrective actions from committees;
- c) escalate governance issues to the Board;
- d) advise on eligibility and procedural validity of proposals.

2.2.4.2 Failure to comply with the GTC's procedural oversight may result in escalation to the Board of Trustees for corrective measures.

Clause 2.2.5 — Composition

2.2.5.1 The Council shall be composed of members with strong organizational, procedural and ethical capacities, representing diverse regions and backgrounds.

2.2.5.2 One member shall be appointed as Chair of the Council and one vice-chair.

2.2.5.3 The Chair is responsible for coordinating actions, communicating with the Board and ensuring timely execution of tasks.

Clause 2.2.6 — Meetings and Protocols

2.2.6.1 The Council shall meet regularly, at a frequency determined internally, and extraordinarily when governance issues arise.

2.2.6.2 All meetings must:

- a) follow an agenda circulated in advance,
- b) designate a note-taker,
- c) have official minutes produced and distributed,
- d) record any decisions or recommendations.

Clause 2.2.7 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.2.7.1 The GTC shall collaborate with:

- a) the Board of Trustees,
- b) all thematic committees,
- c) the Legal Advisory Unit (when legal matters arise),
- d) the STC for scientific-ethical concerns,
- e) the Communications Committee for dissemination of governance updates.

2.2.7.2 Collaboration must follow the protocols established in Section 5.

Clause 2.2.8 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.2.8.1 The Council shall appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees.

2.2.8.2 This representative is responsible for:

- a) presenting governance matters to the Board;

- b) communicating Board decisions to the GTC;
 - c) ensuring alignment between the Council and the governance system.
-

Clause 2.2.9 — Accountability

- 2.2.9.1 The Governance & Transparency Council is accountable to the Board of Trustees.
- 2.2.9.2 Its actions must always adhere to the principles in Section 1 and support the fairness, neutrality and credibility of the initiative.

2.3 LEGAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (LAC)

Clause 2.3.1 — Definition and Role

2.3.1.1 The Legal Advisory Unit (LAU) is an independent advisory body responsible for providing legal, regulatory and procedural guidance to the governance bodies of the Water Positive Initiative.

2.3.1.2 The LAU does not participate in operational or strategic decision-making but offers legal expertise to ensure that governance actions, partnerships, frameworks and publications comply with applicable laws, intellectual property standards, regulatory requirements and institutional obligations.

2.3.1.3 The LAU supports the initiative by reducing legal risks, ensuring clarity in contractual engagements, and safeguarding the long-term integrity and legitimacy of Water Positive.

Clause 2.3.2 — Mandate

2.3.2.1 The LAC shall:

- a) review governance documents when requested;
 - b) provide legal analysis related to partnerships, agreements and collaborations;
 - c) assess risks related to intellectual property, data protection, privacy and liability;
 - d) support committees in drafting legal disclaimers and terms of use;
 - e) advise the Board of Trustees on legal implications of strategic decisions;
 - f) provide guidance to ensure that the Water Positive Framework and methodologies do not expose the initiative to legal vulnerabilities.
-

Clause 2.3.3 — Responsibilities

2.3.3.1 — Governance Support

The LAC shall:

- a) assist the Governance Committee in reviewing proposed amendments to this charter;
- b) evaluate whether governance processes comply with legal norms;
- c) advise on the legality of actions proposed by committees.

2.3.3.2 — Partnership and Contractual Review

The Unit shall:

- a) review drafts of MoUs, collaboration agreements, sponsorships and partnerships;
- b) advise on compliance with international, national and regional regulations;
- c) identify legal risks and propose mitigation measures;
- d) support the Communications Committee in reviewing agreements related to branding and identity.

2.3.3.3 — Intellectual Property and Data Protection

The LAC shall:

- a) ensure that intellectual property rights related to content, frameworks and publications are respected;
- b) advise on copyright, licensing and usage rights;
- c) support compliance with data protection regulations (e.g., GDPR, privacy standards);
- d) evaluate risks associated with digital tools and AI (in collaboration with the DWAIC).

2.3.3.4 — Legal Safeguards for Framework Development

The Unit shall:

- a) support the Frameworks Committee in preparing legal disclaimers;
- b) assess risks associated with methodological use by third parties;
- c) advise on the legal boundaries of certification, verification or claims related to “water-positive” performance.

2.3.3.5 — Risk Assessment

The LAC shall:

- a) provide early identification of potential legal conflicts;
 - b) support committees in risk-prevention strategies;
 - c) advise the Board on legal vulnerabilities arising from cross-sector collaborations.
-

Clause 2.3.4 — Authority

2.3.4.1 The LAC has advisory authority only; it does not possess decision-making power.

2.3.4.2 However, the LAU may recommend that the Board postpone or review actions that present significant legal risks.

2.3.4.3 Committees are expected to take LAC recommendations into account when preparing formal proposals.

Clause 2.3.5 — Composition

2.3.5.1 The Unit shall be composed of legal professionals, advisors or experts with knowledge of:

- a) international law,
- b) environmental law,
- c) corporate and contractual law,
- d) intellectual property,
- e) data protection and digital compliance,
- f) public-sector regulations.

2.3.5.2 Members shall maintain independence and disclose conflicts of interest per Section 4.

Clause 2.3.6 — Interaction with Governance Bodies

2.3.6.1 The LAU shall collaborate with:

- a) the Board of Trustees (legal advice on strategic decisions);
 - b) the Governance Committee (procedural and governance compliance);
 - c) the Frameworks Committee (legal disclaimers and methodology safeguards);
 - d) the STC (scientific-legal implications when relevant);
 - e) the Communications Committee (brand, identity, public statements);
 - f) thematic committees (legal considerations in sectoral projects).
-

Clause 2.3.7 — Representation

2.3.7.1 The LAU does not hold a voting seat on the Board of Trustees.

2.3.7.2 However, the Board may request the presence of LAU representatives during Board sessions when legal matters are discussed.

Clause 2.3.8 — Confidentiality

2.3.8.1 LAU members must maintain strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information, draft agreements and legal assessments.

2.3.8.2 Confidentiality obligations remain in effect even after a member's term ends.

Clause 2.3.9 — Accountability

2.3.9.1 The LAU is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

2.3.9.2 Its recommendations must prioritize legal integrity, risk mitigation and the protection of Water Positive's governance system.

2.4 SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL COUNCIL (STC)

Clause 2.4.1 — Definition and Role

2.4.1.1 The Scientific & Technical Council (STC) is the independent scientific authority of the Water Positive Initiative.

2.4.1.2 The Council ensures that all scientific, technical and methodological outputs produced by Water Positive are accurate, rigorous, evidence-based and aligned with international best practices.

2.4.1.3 The STC functions as the principal safeguard of scientific neutrality and credibility, independent from commercial or institutional influence.

Clause 2.4.2 — Mandate

2.4.2.1 The STC shall:

- a) validate scientific and technical content generated by committees and working groups;
 - b) provide scientific guidance on methodologies, indicators, metrics and frameworks;
 - c) ensure the integrity, accuracy and reliability of technical publications;
 - d) serve as a reference point for decision-making requiring technical evaluation;
 - e) advise the Board of Trustees on scientific matters;
 - f) protect the initiative from misinformation, bias or undue influence.
-

Clause 2.4.3 — Responsibilities

2.4.3.1 — Scientific Validation

The STC shall:

- a) review and validate technical materials such as reports, guidance documents, methodological proposals and scientific content;
- b) evaluate the robustness of scientific references and data sources;
- c) ensure compliance with ethical standards in technical work;
- d) approve or recommend adjustments to sector-specific indicators submitted by committees.

2.4.3.2 — Methodological Oversight

The Council shall:

- a) collaborate directly with the Frameworks Committee;
- b) ensure methodological changes are scientifically justified;
- c) review proposals for new indicators, metrics or analytical tools;
- d) provide final scientific approval prior to Framework publication.

2.4.3.3 — Advisory Functions

The STC shall:

- a) advise the Board on scientific issues requiring strategic decisions;
- b) provide guidance on water-related risks, uncertainties, climate considerations and emerging challenges;
- c) support committees on complex scientific or methodological questions.

2.4.3.4 — Knowledge Integrity

The Council shall ensure:

- a) that all technical communication maintains scientific integrity;
 - b) that Water Positive content is free from commercial bias;
 - c) scientific neutrality in public communications and education materials.
-

Clause 2.4.4 — Authority

2.4.4.1 The STC has the authority to:

- a) approve or reject scientific and technical content;
- b) request revisions or additional evidence;
- c) require committees to align materials with scientific standards;
- d) veto content that does not meet neutrality or rigor requirements.

2.4.4.2 STC decisions regarding scientific validity are binding for publication.

2.4.4.3 The STC does not manage operations or communications but acts as a mandatory validation layer.

Clause 2.4.5 — Composition

2.4.5.1 The Council shall be composed of experts with extensive experience in water science, engineering, hydrology, ecology, climate, data science, environmental economics or related fields.

2.4.5.2 Members shall be selected based on expertise, reputation and independence from conflicts of interest.

2.4.5.3 Membership must reflect geographic, disciplinary and sectoral diversity.

2.4.5.4 One member shall serve as Chair, coordinating the Council and representing it within the governance system.

Clause 2.4.6 — Meetings and Protocols

2.4.6.1 The STC shall meet regularly to review submissions or when technical decisions require urgent assessment.

2.4.6.2 Meetings must:

- a) follow structured scientific review procedures,
 - b) be documented with technical notes,
 - c) maintain confidentiality when required,
 - d) produce clear decisions, including approval, revision or rejection.
-

Clause 2.4.7 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.4.7.1 The STC shall collaborate with:

- a) the Frameworks Committee (methodology and indicators),
- b) all thematic committees (sectoral technical validation),
- c) the Education Committee (scientific accuracy for educational materials),
- d) the Communications Committee (fact-checking scientific content),
- e) the Governance Committee (ethical considerations in scientific work).

2.4.7.2 All interactions must follow collaboration protocols outlined in Section 5.

Clause 2.4.8 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.4.8.1 The Council shall appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees.

2.4.8.2 The representative shall communicate scientific perspectives and ensure alignment between Board decisions and scientific evidence.

Clause 2.4.9 — Independence and Integrity

2.4.9.1 Members of the STC must maintain full independence from commercial interests.

2.4.9.2 Any potential conflict must be disclosed according to Section 4.

2.4.9.3 The STC's independence shall not be compromised by external or internal pressures.

Clause 2.4.10 — Accountability

2.4.10.1 The STC is accountable to the Board of Trustees for maintaining scientific integrity.

2.4.10.2 Its validation decisions are final regarding scientific and technical accuracy.

2.5 COMMUNICATIONS, OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Clause 2.5.1 — Definition and Role

2.5.1.1 The Communications, Outreach & Partnerships Committee (COPC) is responsible for all public-facing communication, institutional messaging, external engagement, brand integrity and partnership development within the Water Positive Initiative.

2.5.1.2 The Committee ensures that all external communications reflect the mission, vision and governance principles of Water Positive, while maintaining scientific accuracy, neutrality and coherence across regions and sectors.

2.5.1.3 The COPC serves as the official gateway for institutional visibility and engagement with external stakeholders.

2.5.1.4 The COPC moderates and is responsible for managing internal communication channels including general WhatsApp groups and newsletters.

2.5.1.5 The Committee ensures that all external communications follow the messaging guidelines set by the Governance Committee.

Clause 2.5.2 — Mandate

2.5.2.1 The Committee shall:

- a) lead and coordinate all communications, outreach and brand-related activities;
 - b) develop and maintain Water Positive's communication strategy and institutional narrative;
 - c) ensure scientific and methodological content is vetted through the STC and Frameworks Committee before publication;
 - d) promote initiatives, events, frameworks and educational programs;
 - e) support partnership development and maintain external relations;
 - f) manage global campaigns, including Water Positive Day;
 - g) ensure communication consistency across committees, languages and platforms.
-

Clause 2.5.3 — Responsibilities

2.5.3.1 — Communications and Messaging

The COPC is responsible for:

- a) developing and approving all public messaging and official statements;
- b) producing communication materials in coordination with the relevant committees;
- c) ensuring clarity, coherence and alignment with the Water Positive identity;
- d) safeguarding neutrality by preventing implicit or explicit promotion of commercial entities, companies, or individual members;
- e) managing official communication channels, including social media, website, external newsletters and press releases;
- f) managing internal communication channels including general WhatsApp groups, internal newsletters, etc.

2.5.3.2 — Brand Integrity

The Committee shall:

- a) protect the proper use of logos, trademarks and visual identity;
- b) define and maintain brand standards for internal and external use;
- c) monitor misuse or misrepresentation of Water Positive's identity;
- d) ensure communication materials are consistent across regions and contexts.

2.5.3.3 — Outreach and Engagement

The COPC shall:

- a) engage with members and stakeholders across sectors (corporate, institutional, academic, civil society);

- b) develop communication strategies tailored for regional contexts;
- c) disseminate knowledge and initiatives produced by committees;
- d) support community-building and global awareness campaigns;
- e) manage the WhatsApp group;
- f) coordinate with relevant committees the continued engagement of members.

2.5.3.4 — Partnerships and Institutional Relations

The Committee shall:

- a) identify potential strategic partners aligned with the mission of Water Positive;
- b) assess partnership proposals for alignment with Section 4 (ethics and COI);
- c) prepare partnership recommendations for the Board of Trustees;
- d) maintain a centralized record of partnerships;
- e) ensure that engagement processes follow governance protocols.

2.5.3.5 — Education Initiatives and Events

This specialized operational unit within the COPC shall:

- a) coordinate awareness events, campaigns and global calls to action;
- b) support regional committees in organizing Water Positive-aligned events;
- c) ensure scientific content for public events is validated by STC;
- d) maintain documentation of events and outreach metrics.

Clause 2.5.4 — Authority

2.5.4.1 The COPC has the exclusive authority to oversee and approve:

- a) any public communication or publication issued under the Water Positive name;
- b) the use of branding, frameworks and institutional materials;
- c) communication-related aspects of partnerships.

2.5.4.2 No other committee or individual may issue public statements or use the Water Positive identity without COPC approval.

2.5.4.3 Scientific, technical and methodological content must receive STC and/or Frameworks Committee validation before COPC dissemination.

Clause 2.5.5 — Composition

2.5.5.1 The Committee shall include members with expertise in communications, outreach, branding, partnerships, media, public affairs and narrative development.

2.5.5.2 The Committee may include specialized regional representatives to ensure global reach and cultural relevance.

2.5.5.3 One member shall serve as Chair and act as the primary liaison with the Board of Trustees.

Clause 2.5.6 — Meetings and Protocols

2.5.6.1 The COPC shall meet regularly and according to internal scheduling defined by the Committee.

2.5.6.2 Meetings must follow governance protocols:

- a) agenda circulated prior to meeting;
- b) official minutes produced and distributed;
- c) clear documentation of decisions;
- d) use of official communication channels.

Clause 2.5.7 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.5.7.1 The COPC collaborates closely with:

- a) the STC (scientific accuracy);
- b) the Frameworks Committee (methodological coherence);
- c) the Education Committee (co-creation of educational messaging and content dissemination);
- d) thematic committees (communication of insights and actions);
- e) the Governance Committee (institutional communication and transparency).

2.5.7.2 All collaboration must comply with the protocols outlined in Section 5.

Clause 2.5.8 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.5.8.1 The Committee shall appoint one representative to the Board.

2.5.8.2 This representative shall ensure alignment between the Board and COPC, conveying communication strategies and receiving Board directives.

Clause 2.5.9 — Accountability

2.5.9.1 The COPC is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

2.5.9.2 Its actions must uphold neutrality, professionalism and the institutional integrity of the initiative.

2.6 AGRICULTURE, FOOD & WATER SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

Clause 2.6.1 — Definition and Role

2.6.1.1 The Agriculture, Food & Water Systems Committee (AFWSC) is responsible for advancing sustainable, regenerative and water-positive practices across agriculture, food systems, agro-industries and rural water management.

2.6.1.2 The Committee acts as the primary body within Water Positive dedicated to understanding, evaluating and promoting water-related challenges and solutions in agricultural and food-production contexts.

2.6.1.3 The AFWSC provides scientific, technical and strategic insights to support water-positive transitions within agricultural value chains.

Clause 2.6.2 — Mandate

2.6.2.1 The Committee shall:

- a) generate, consolidate and validate knowledge related to agricultural water use, scarcity, resilience and regenerative practices;
 - b) support the development and continuous improvement of the Water Positive Framework as it applies to agriculture and food systems;
 - c) produce technical briefs, case studies, policy insights and guidance materials;
 - d) collaborate with institutions, experts and regional partners to advance evidence-based agricultural solutions;
 - e) evaluate and promote the application of circular water systems in agriculture;
 - f) address climate-related risks and adaptation strategies for water in agriculture.
-

Clause 2.6.3 — Responsibilities

2.6.3.1 — Scientific and Technical Analysis

The AFWSC shall:

- a) assess agricultural water-use efficiency, irrigation technologies and soil-water interactions;
- b) evaluate regenerative and nature-based agricultural solutions;
- c) study water risks across food supply chains;
- d) identify opportunities for water circularity, reuse and recharge in agricultural systems.

2.6.3.2 — Framework Contribution

The Committee shall:

- a) provide technical inputs to the Frameworks Committee for agricultural indicators;
- b) contribute to methodological updates and sector-specific metrics;
- c) support the Scientific & Technical Council (STC) with sectoral validation needs.

2.6.3.3 — Knowledge Production

The Committee shall produce:

- a) technical reports and briefs;
- b) toolkits and guidance documents;
- c) best-practice case studies;
- d) policy recommendations on water, agriculture and food systems.

2.6.3.4 — Engagement with Stakeholders

The Committee shall:

- a) collaborate with universities, research institutions, farmers, cooperatives, agribusinesses and public entities;
- b) promote knowledge exchange between regions and climates;
- c) support pilot initiatives demonstrating water-positive agriculture.

2.6.3.5 — Climate and Resilience Planning

The AFWSC shall:

- a) assess climate risks for agricultural water availability;
 - b) identify adaptation solutions for drought, water scarcity, and soil degradation;
 - c) integrate resilience principles into agricultural water management.
-

Clause 2.6.4 — Authority

2.6.4.1 The AFWSC has the authority to:

- a) develop sector-specific analyses and recommendations;
- b) propose indicators, metrics and framework improvements related to agriculture;
- c) collaborate with other committees on cross-sector initiatives;
- d) request validation from the STC for technical content.

2.6.4.2 The Committee does not issue public communications directly; dissemination must follow protocols through the Communications Committee.

Clause 2.6.5 — Composition

2.6.5.1 The Committee shall include professionals with expertise in agriculture, irrigation, soil science, agronomy, hydrology, food systems, sustainability, economics and rural development.

2.6.5.2 Membership shall reflect geographic and sectoral diversity, including drylands, mountain systems, coastal agriculture and high-productivity areas.

2.6.5.3 One member shall serve as Chair, responsible for coordination and representation.

Clause 2.6.6 — Meetings and Internal Protocols

2.6.6.1 The Committee shall meet regularly as determined by internal procedures.

2.6.6.2 Meetings must:

- a) follow established governance protocols,
 - b) circulate agendas in advance,
 - c) maintain documented minutes,
 - d) communicate decisions clearly to members and the Board representative.
-

Clause 2.6.7 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.6.7.1 The AFWSC shall collaborate with:

- a) the Frameworks Committee (agricultural indicators and metrics);
- b) the STC (scientific validation and evidence);
- c) the Education Committee (educational content and capacity-building);
- d) the Energy, Industry & Mining Committee (synergies in land-water-energy systems);
- e) the Urban Water Committee (watershed interfaces and ecological systems);
- f) the Communications Committee (dissemination of validated outputs).

2.6.7.2 All collaboration shall follow the procedures defined in Section 5.

Clause 2.6.8 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.6.8.1 The Committee shall appoint one representative to the Board of Trustees.

2.6.8.2 The representative shall communicate agricultural insights at Board level and ensure alignment of the Committee with governance and strategy.

Clause 2.6.9 — Accountability

2.6.9.1 The AFWSC is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

2.6.9.2 Its actions must uphold scientific rigor, neutrality, institutional credibility and alignment with the Water Positive mission.

2.7 ENERGY, INDUSTRY & MINING COMMITTEE (EIMC)

Including the Produced Water Task Force

Clause 2.7.1 — Definition and Role

2.7.1.1 The Energy, Industry & Mining Committee (EIMC) is responsible for advancing water-positive practices across industrial sectors, including energy production, power generation, heavy industry, petrochemical operations and mining.

2.7.1.2 The Committee provides sector-specific technical insight, risk analysis, and strategic guidance related to water use, contamination, circularity and industrial water stewardship.

2.7.1.3 The EIMC includes and supervises the Produced Water Task Force, established to address complex water challenges in oil, gas and petrochemical sectors.

Clause 2.7.2 — Mandate

2.7.2.1 The Committee shall:

- a) analyze industrial water flows, risks, discharge challenges and opportunities for improvement;
 - b) assess and promote water efficiency, reuse, recycling and circularity practices across industries;
 - c) generate technical and scientific knowledge to inform the Water Positive Framework;
 - d) collaborate with institutions, companies and experts in the industrial and mining sectors;
 - e) contribute to methodologies for assessing industrial water-positive performance;
 - f) evaluate produced water challenges and solutions through the Task Force;
 - g) support climate resilience and risk mitigation strategies within water-intensive industries.
-

Clause 2.7.3 — Responsibilities

2.7.3.1 — Industrial Water Analysis

The EIMC shall:

- a) study water intake, consumption, discharge, pollution and treatment in energy and industrial processes;
- b) assess technological solutions for water reuse, desalination, treatment and resource recovery;
- c) evaluate the environmental impacts and water dependencies of industrial operations;
- d) identify opportunities for regenerative, circular and positive-water strategies.

2.7.3.2 — Framework Development

The Committee shall:

- a) provide sector-specific expertise to the Frameworks Committee;
- b) support the development of indicators for industrial water-positive performance;
- c) collaborate with STC to validate technical content and methodologies.

2.7.3.3 — Knowledge Production

The Committee shall produce:

- a) technical reports and sector briefs;
- b) technology and solution reviews;
- c) case studies on industrial and mining operations;
- d) risk assessments and recommendations for policy and corporate adoption.

2.7.3.4 — Climate, Risk and Resilience

The EIMC shall:

- a) assess climate-related risks affecting industrial water availability;
 - b) propose resilience-building strategies for water-dependent industries;
 - c) collaborate with the Urban Water Committee on watershed impacts.
-

Clause 2.7.4 — Produced Water Task Force

2.7.4.1 — Definition

The Produced Water Task Force (PWTF) is a specialized technical body under the EIMC dedicated to the study and improvement of water generated in oil, gas and petrochemical production.

2.7.4.2 — Scope

The Task Force shall:

- a) assess chemical, physical and environmental characteristics of produced water;
- b) evaluate treatment, reinjection, discharge and reuse technologies;
- c) analyze regulatory frameworks and industry practices;
- d) explore water-positive opportunities within hydrocarbon value chains.

2.7.4.3 — Responsibilities

The PWTF shall:

- a) produce sector-specific reports and recommendations;
- b) support risk analysis for water contamination and environmental impact;
- c) collaborate with STC for scientific validation;
- d) provide technical support to companies seeking water-positive transitions.

2.7.4.4 — Authority

The PWTF may propose:

- a) metrics for produced water assessment;
- b) guidance for companies and regulators;
- c) validation pathways through STC and the Frameworks Committee.

The PWTF does not issue independent public communications.

Clause 2.7.5 — Authority of the EIMC

2.7.5.1 The EIMC has the authority to:

- a) analyze industrial water systems;
- b) propose frameworks and indicators;
- c) initiate cross-sector collaboration;
- d) produce validated technical content.

2.7.5.2 External communication must follow the Communications Committee protocols.

Clause 2.7.6 — Composition

2.7.6.1 Members should represent diverse regions and industrial subsectors.

Clause 2.7.7 — Meetings and Protocols

2.7.7.1 Meetings shall follow governance protocols:

- a) agenda in advance,
- b) official minutes produced and distributed,
- c) clear documentation of decisions.

2.7.7.2 The Produced Water Task Force may hold independent technical meetings, reporting to the EIMC Chair.

Clause 2.7.8 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.7.8.1 The EIMC shall collaborate with:

- a) the Frameworks Committee (industrial indicators);
- b) the STC (technical validation);
- c) the Urban Water Committee (ecosystem and watershed interactions);
- d) the Education Committee (capacity-building materials);
- e) the Communications Committee (dissemination);
- f) the Agriculture Committee (land-water-energy nexus when relevant).

2.7.8.2 All collaboration shall follow Section 5 procedures.

Clause 2.7.9 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.7.9.1 The Committee shall appoint one representative to the Board.

2.7.9.2 The representative shall communicate industrial insights and ensure alignment with governance.

Clause 2.7.10 — Accountability

2.7.10.1 The EIMC is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

2.7.10.2 Its actions must uphold scientific rigor, neutrality and alignment with the Water Positive mission.

2.8 DIGITAL WATER, AI & INNOVATION COMMITTEE (DWAIC)

Clause 2.8.1 — Definition and Role

2.8.1.1 The Digital Water, AI & Innovation Committee (DWAIC) is responsible for advancing digital transformation, artificial intelligence, innovation ecosystems and technological solutions that support water-positive outcomes across sectors.

2.8.1.2 The Committee serves as the central digital and technological hub of the Water Positive Initiative, promoting responsible, ethical and scientifically aligned use of data, analytics, AI and digital tools.

2.8.1.3 The DWAIC ensures that innovation contributes to quantifiable improvements in water management, resilience and regeneration, while safeguarding data ethics and transparency.

Clause 2.8.2 — Mandate

2.8.2.1 The Committee shall:

- a) assess digital technologies that enable water-positive performance;

- b) promote ethical and responsible AI development in water systems;
 - c) evaluate innovation opportunities across all sectors;
 - d) support digital methodologies used in the Water Positive Framework;
 - e) collaborate with academic, institutional, private-sector and civil-society partners working in digital water and data science;
 - f) promote monitoring, measurement, predictive analytics and transparency tools;
 - g) support capacity-building on digital transformation and AI literacy.
-

Clause 2.8.3 — Responsibilities

2.8.3.1 — Digital Water Systems

The DWAIIC shall:

- a) analyze digital twins, advanced sensors, IoT platforms, SCADA, GIS and monitoring systems;
- b) promote real-time water data access and transparency;
- c) evaluate digital solutions for water efficiency, leak detection, optimization and forecasting;
- d) identify digital capabilities needed for water-positive decision-making.

2.8.3.2 — Artificial Intelligence

The Committee shall:

- a) assess AI applications across water systems (prediction, optimization, modelling);
- b) promote ethical frameworks, avoiding bias, misuse and lack of transparency;
- c) evaluate AI risks and mitigation strategies;
- d) ensure AI adoption aligns with governance principles and scientific rigor.

2.8.3.3 — Innovation Ecosystem Development

The DWAIIC shall:

- a) identify emerging technologies for regenerative water processes;
- b) establish partnerships with innovation hubs, accelerators and research institutions;
- c) map global innovation actors relevant to water-positive transitions;
- d) facilitate cross-sector innovation dialogues.

2.8.3.4 — Framework Contribution

The Committee shall:

- a) contribute digital and AI-related indicators to the Frameworks Committee;
- b) support methodological improvements involving digital data;
- c) collaborate with the STC on scientific validation.

2.8.3.5 — Knowledge Production

The Committee shall produce:

- a) technology assessment reports;
 - b) digital water and AI guidance notes;
 - c) policy recommendations on digital governance and water data;
 - d) case studies on digital transformation impact.
-

Clause 2.8.4 — Authority

2.8.4.1 The DWAIIC has the authority to:

- a) evaluate and propose digital solutions across committees;
- b) provide technical expertise for digital components of the Framework;
- c) define digital-water standards and ethics guidelines;
- d) initiate or recommend innovation-focused collaborations.

2.8.4.2 Public dissemination of content requires Communications Committee approval.

Clause 2.8.5 — Composition

2.8.5.1 The Committee shall include professionals with expertise in:

- a) data science and machine learning;
- b) hydrology and modelling;
- c) digital infrastructure and IoT systems;
- d) innovation management;
- e) policy and digital governance;
- f) cybersecurity and data ethics.

2.8.5.2 Membership should reflect geographic diversity and include innovation ecosystems across regions.

2.8.5.3 One member shall serve as Chair, coordinating the Committee and representing it at the Board.

Clause 2.8.6 — Meetings and Internal Protocols

2.8.6.1 Meetings shall follow established governance protocols:

- a) agenda distribution prior to the meeting,
 - b) structured discussions,
 - c) documentation of all decisions,
 - d) official minutes produced and distributed.
-

Clause 2.8.7 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.8.7.1 The DWAIC shall collaborate with:

- a) the Frameworks Committee (digital indicators),
- b) the STC (technical validation),
- c) the Urban Water Committee (city monitoring systems),
- d) the Energy & Industry Committee (digital industrial water systems),
- e) the Agriculture Committee (digital farming and irrigation technologies),
- f) the Education Committee (digital literacy and capacity-building),
- g) the Communications Committee (public dissemination).

2.8.7.2 All collaboration shall comply with protocols in Section 5.

Clause 2.8.8 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.8.8.1 The Committee shall appoint one representative to the Board.

2.8.8.2 The representative shall communicate technological insights and ensure alignment with governance directives.

Clause 2.8.9 — Accountability

2.8.9.1 The DWAIC is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

2.8.9.2 All activities must uphold scientific rigor, ethics of data and AI, neutrality and alignment with the Water Positive mission.

2.9 FRAMEWORKS COMMITTEE (FC)

Clause 2.9.1 — Definition and Role

2.9.1.1 The Frameworks Committee (FC) is the body responsible for developing, maintaining, updating and safeguarding the official Water Positive Framework and all associated methodologies, indicators and metrics.

2.9.1.2 The Committee ensures that the Framework reflects scientific rigor, sectoral relevance, coherence, transparency and practicality for organizations and stakeholders adopting the Water Positive approach.

2.9.1.3 The FC functions as the methodological authority of the initiative, working closely with the Scientific & Technical Council (STC) to ensure scientific accuracy and validation.

Clause 2.9.2 — Mandate

2.9.2.1 The Committee shall:

- a) design, refine and update the Water Positive Framework;
 - b) develop sector-specific indicators, metrics and methodological tools;
 - c) review methodological proposals submitted by thematic committees;
 - d) maintain coherence across all framework components;
 - e) ensure that the framework remains neutral, transparent and scientifically grounded;
 - f) support entities seeking to understand or apply the methodology;
 - g) collaborate with the STC for scientific validation.
-

Clause 2.9.3 — Responsibilities**2.9.3.1 — Methodology Development**

The FC shall:

- a) develop core principles and definitions within the Water Positive methodology;
- b) create and refine indicators, metrics, baselines, boundaries and calculation rules;
- c) integrate cross-sector contributions into a harmonized structure;
- d) ensure consistency with global water and sustainability frameworks.

2.9.3.2 — Validation and Alignment

The Committee shall:

- a) submit methodology changes to the STC for scientific approval;
- b) incorporate STC recommendations into the Framework;
- c) ensure all methodological decisions follow governance processes.

2.9.3.3 — Review and Revision

The FC shall:

- a) conduct periodic methodological reviews;
- b) assess the need for sectoral annexes and updates;
- c) respond to emerging scientific insights or stakeholder feedback;
- d) prepare documentation for amendments requiring Board approval.

2.9.3.4 — Knowledge and Guidance Materials

The Committee shall produce:

- a) methodological guidance notes;
- b) sector-specific framework annexes;
- c) calculation tools and visual aids;
- d) explanatory documents and FAQs.

2.9.3.5 — Stakeholder Engagement

The FC shall:

- a) engage experts, institutions and sectoral leaders to refine the methodology;
 - b) facilitate consultative processes when major updates are required;
 - c) support thematic committees in interpreting the methodology.
-

Clause 2.9.4 — Authority

2.9.4.1 The Frameworks Committee has the authority to:

- a) propose updates to the Framework;
- b) define indicators, boundaries and methodological rules;
- c) approve sector contributions prior to STC review;
- d) require committees to revise submissions for methodological consistency.

2.9.4.2 Final methodological approval requires:

- a) validation by the STC, and
 - b) approval by the Board of Trustees when changes are structural.
-

Clause 2.9.5 — Composition

2.9.5.1 The Committee shall include experts in:

- a) hydrology and water measurement;
- b) sustainability metrics and environmental accounting;
- c) systems thinking and circular water management;
- d) sector-specific methodologies;
- e) data analysis and modelling.

2.9.5.2 Membership must reflect the diversity of sectors included in the Framework.

2.9.5.3 One member shall serve as Chair and represent the Committee within the governance structure.

Clause 2.9.6 — Meetings and Protocols

2.9.6.1 The FC shall meet regularly according to internal planning and when methodology proposals require review.

2.9.6.2 Meetings shall follow governance protocols:

- a) agenda distribution,
 - b) clear documentation,
 - c) recorded methodological decisions,
 - d) official minutes produced and distributed.
-

Clause 2.9.7 — Collaboration with Other Committees

2.9.7.1 The FC collaborates with:

- a) all thematic committees (sectoral contributions),
- b) the STC (scientific validation),
- c) the Education Committee (translation of methodology into learning materials),

- d) the Communications Committee (public dissemination of validated methodology),
- e) the Governance Committee (documentation and version control).

2.9.7.2 Collaboration must follow Section 5.

Clause 2.9.8 — Representation at the Board of Trustees

2.9.8.1 The Committee shall appoint one representative to the Board.

2.9.8.2 This representative shall ensure methodological integrity is maintained at Board level.

Clause 2.9.9 — Accountability

2.9.9.1 The Frameworks Committee is accountable to the Board of Trustees.

2.9.9.2 Its work must maintain neutrality, transparency, coherence and scientific rigor.

SECTION 3 — DECISION-MAKING PROCEDURES

Clause 3.1 — Purpose and General Principles

3.1.1 This Section establishes the procedures, structures and rules governing decision-making within the Water Positive Initiative.

3.1.2 Its purpose is to ensure that all decisions are transparent, accountable, methodologically sound and aligned with the governance principles defined in Section 1.

3.1.3 These procedures guarantee fairness, prevent concentration of power, and ensure broad representation across committees.

Clause 3.2 — Types of Decisions

Decisions within Water Positive fall under four categories:

3.2.1 — Strategic Decisions

3.2.1.1 Strategic decisions include matters that shape the future direction, governance, structure, credibility or public positioning of Water Positive.

3.2.1.2 Examples include:

- a) amendments to this charter;
- b) approval of the Water Positive Framework or structural methodology changes;
- c) establishment or dissolution of committees;
- d) approval or revocation of strategic partnerships;
- e) institutional positioning or public declarations at global level;
- f) decisions related to governance integrity or conflict escalation.

3.2.1.3 Strategic decisions require Board approval with a two-thirds (⅔) majority.

3.2.2 — Operational Decisions

3.2.2.1 Operational decisions involve actions within the mandate of individual committees.

3.2.2.2 Examples include:

- a) planning committee meetings;
- b) drafting documents within committee scope;
- c) internal coordination or specific tasks;
- d) preliminary analysis or preparation of materials.

3.2.2.3 Committees may decide operational matters independently, following governance protocols.

3.2.3 — Technical Decisions

3.2.3.1 Technical decisions refer to scientific, methodological or evidence-based conclusions requiring expert review.

3.2.3.2 Examples include:

- a) technical content for frameworks, indicators, methodologies;
- b) scientific reports, sector briefs or analytical documents;
- c) recommendations involving metrics, baselines or data analysis.

3.2.3.3 Technical decisions require:

- a) approval of the relevant thematic committee, and
 - b) mandatory review and validation by the Scientific & Technical Council (STC).
-

3.2.4 — Joint Decisions

3.2.4.1

Joint decisions involve cross-sectoral matters relevant to more than one committee.

3.2.4.2 Examples include:

- a) educational materials requiring both ECBC and STC review;
- b) technical content for Communications requiring prior committee alignment;
- c) multi-committee frameworks or cross-sector analyses.

3.2.4.3 Joint decisions follow a shared process, coordinated by the Governance Committee if needed.

Clause 3.3 — Decision-Making Process

The decision-making process follows a structured sequence.

3.3.1 — Proposal Submission

3.3.1.1 Any committee, working group, the STC or the LAU may submit a proposal following internal procedures.

3.3.1.2 The proposal must include:

- a) purpose and justification;
 - b) scope and implications;
 - c) requested decisions (strategic, operational or technical);
 - d) supporting materials or evidence;
 - e) identification of potential conflicts of interest.
-

3.3.2 — Committee Review

3.3.2.1 The relevant committee reviews the proposal internally, formulates amendments if necessary, and approves it for escalation.

3.3.2.2 If multiple committees are involved, a joint review process must be initiated.

3.3.3 — Scientific and Methodological Validation (if required)

3.3.3.1 Technical content must be:

- a) reviewed and validated by the STC, and
- b) aligned with Frameworks Committee methodology.

3.3.3.2 Validation must be completed prior to Board consideration or public dissemination.

3.3.4 — Governance Review (Procedural Validation)

3.3.4.1 The Governance & Transparency Committee ensures:

- a) procedural compliance,
 - b) completeness of documentation,
 - c) adherence to quorum and voting rules.
-

3.3.5 — Board Review

3.3.5.1

The Board of Trustees shall:

- a) review the proposal,
 - b) discuss its implications,
 - c) request additional information if necessary,
 - d) vote according to clause 3.4.
-

Clause 3.4 — Quorum and Voting Rules

3.4.1 — Quorum for Board Decisions

3.4.1.1 Quorum is met when:

- a) the President or Vice President is present, and
 - b) at least two-thirds (⅔) of Board of Trustees are in attendance.
-

3.4.2 — Voting Thresholds

3.4.2.1 Strategic decisions require a two-thirds (⅔) majority.

3.4.2.2 Operational Board decisions require a simple majority.

3.4.2.3 Technical decisions requiring validation must have:

- a) committee approval,
 - b) STC validation.
-

3.4.3 — Abstentions and Recusals

3.4.3.1 A member must abstain from voting if:

- a) they have a conflict of interest;
 - b) the matter affects them personally or their organization;
 - c) impartiality cannot be guaranteed.
-

3.4.4 — Tie Situations

3.4.4.1 In case of a tie during a non-strategic vote, the President has the deciding vote.

3.4.5 — Remote, Proxy and Advance Voting

3.4.5.1 — Eligibility

A Board Member who cannot attend a meeting may still vote if:

- a) the item was included in the agenda circulated in advance;
- b) the member has reviewed the documents;
- c) the member submits their vote before the meeting or formally delegates it.

3.4.5.2 — Accepted Forms of Non-Present Voting

A Board Member may exercise their vote through one of the following:

- a) Advance Written Vote

- sending their vote in writing to the President or Vice President up to 24 hours before the meeting.
- b) Proxy Vote
 - designating another Board Member to vote on their behalf;
 - the designation must be written and submitted before the meeting.
- c) Secure Digital Vote
 - participation through an official digital voting platform (poll, secure form, etc.) provided by the Governance Committee.

3.4.5.3 — Validation

The Governance Committee verifies the legitimacy of advance or proxy votes and records them in the official minutes.

3.4.5.4 — Counting

Remote, advance and proxy votes count toward:

- a) quorum,
- b) voting thresholds,
- c) majority requirements.

3.4.5.5 — Exclusions

Remote voting is not permitted for:

- a) emergency decisions under Clause 3.5,
- b) matters requiring confidential discussion during the meeting,
- c) sanctions or removals of members (these require direct Board participation).

Clause 3.5 — Emergency Decision Procedure

3.5.1 When urgent matters require immediate action to protect the initiative, the following may take provisional decisions:

- a) President,
- b) Vice President,
- c) one additional Board member.

3.5.2 Such decisions must be:

- a) strictly limited to urgent matters,
- b) documented,
- c) presented to the Board for ratification at the next meeting.

Clause 3.6 — Documentation and Record-Keeping

3.6.1 The Governance & Transparency Committee shall maintain:

- a) the Decision Register;
- b) minutes of Board meetings;
- c) procedural documentation;
- d) record of proposals and voting outcomes.

3.6.2 All decisions must be archived for transparency and institutional continuity.

Clause 3.7 — Appeal and Review Process

3.7.1 Committees may appeal decisions if:

- a) procedural flaws occurred,
- b) information was incomplete,
- c) a conflict of interest was not disclosed.

3.7.2 Appeals go to the Governance Committee for assessment.

3.7.3 If unresolved, they may be escalated to the Board of Trustees for final resolution.

Clause 3.8 — Communication of Decisions

3.8.1 Decisions shall be communicated by:

- a) the Governance Committee (internal governance matters),
- b) the Communications Committee (public or institutional matters).

3.8.2 No committee may communicate Board decisions independently.

SECTION 4 — ETHICS, INTEGRITY & CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Clause 4.1 — Purpose

4.1.1 This Section establishes the ethical standards, integrity requirements and conflict-of-interest policies governing all members, committee participants, Board representatives and collaborators within the Water Positive Initiative.

4.1.2 Its purpose is to ensure transparency, neutrality, fairness, and the independence of Water Positive from commercial, political or personal influence.

4.1.3 The principles outlined in this Section apply to all individuals acting in any official capacity within the initiative.

Clause 4.2 — Ethical Principles

All members shall uphold the following principles:

4.2.1 — Integrity

- 4.2.1.1 Members must act with honesty, transparency and responsibility in all activities.
 - 4.2.1.2 Decisions must reflect the interest of the initiative, not individual or organizational benefit.
-

4.2.2 — Neutrality and Independence

- 4.2.2.1 Members shall not promote or favor specific companies, technologies, political interests or commercial products through the initiative.
 - 4.2.2.2 Water Positive maintains strict independence to ensure credibility with institutions, academia and the public.
-

4.2.3 — Professionalism

- 4.2.3.1 Members shall maintain respectful, constructive and responsible conduct in all interactions.
 - 4.2.3.2 Information must be accurate, evidence-based and aligned with scientific validation requirements.
-

4.2.4 — Transparency

- 4.2.4.1 All decisions, processes and committee activities must be documented and accessible to the appropriate governance bodies.
-

4.2.5 — Inclusiveness and Diversity

- 4.2.5.1 Members shall foster participation across regions, cultures, genders and disciplines.
-

Clause 4.3 — Conflict of Interest Definition

- 4.3.1 A conflict of interest occurs when the personal, professional, commercial or institutional interests of a member could improperly influence, or appear to influence, judgment or actions taken in their Water Positive role.
-

4.3.2 — Examples of Conflicts Include:

- a) promoting one's own company, product or service;
 - b) prioritizing commercial partnerships without Board approval;
 - c) using Water Positive channels for marketing or client acquisition;
 - d) influencing methodological decisions to benefit a specific sector or business;
 - e) representing multiple conflicting interests in decision-making processes;
 - f) failing to disclose financial or institutional affiliations relevant to discussions.
-

Clause 4.4 — Disclosure Obligations

- 4.4.1 All members must declare:
 - a) current employment, business affiliations and board roles;
 - b) commercial relationships that could influence their participation;
 - c) potential conflicts at the beginning of each meeting when relevant;
 - d) any change in circumstances that may create new conflicts.
 - 4.4.2 Disclosures are registered by the Governance Committee and stored in the Conflict Registry.
-

Clause 4.5 — Recusal Procedure

- 4.5.1 Members must abstain from participating in discussions or votes when a conflict exists.
 - 4.5.2 The member may remain present for procedural purposes unless otherwise requested by the meeting Chair.
 - 4.5.3 The recusal must be recorded in minutes.
-

Clause 4.6 — Gifts, Favors and External Influence

- 4.6.1 Members shall not accept gifts, benefits or personal advantages that could compromise or appear to compromise their impartiality.
 - 4.6.2 Any external attempt to influence decisions must be reported immediately to the Governance Committee.
-

Clause 4.7 — Ethical Review and Enforcement

- 4.7.1 The Governance & Transparency Committee shall:
 - a) review potential ethical violations;
 - b) evaluate conflicts of interest disclosed or reported;
 - c) recommend corrective actions or sanctions;
 - d) escalate serious concerns to the Board.
-

4.7.2 — Possible Consequences for Violations

Depending on severity:

- a) formal warning;
 - b) removal from a committee;
 - c) temporary suspension from governance roles;
 - d) permanent removal from the initiative;
 - e) public clarification or corrective statement, if relevant.
-

Clause 4.8 — Protection of Whistleblowers

- 4.8.1 Members reporting ethical breaches or conflicts in good faith shall be protected from retaliation.
 - 4.8.2 Retaliation is itself considered a serious ethical violation.
-

Clause 4.9 — Use of Name, Brand and Communications

4.9.1 The Water Positive name or logo may not be used for:

- a) marketing of products or services;
- b) commercial promotion;
- c) endorsements of technologies or companies;
- d) personal visibility or competitive advantage.

4.9.2 All brand and communication-related decisions must be approved by the Communications Committee and Board when required.

Clause 4.10 — Confidentiality Obligations

4.10.1 Members must respect confidentiality for all non-public information, draft documents, and internal negotiations.

4.10.2 Confidentiality must be maintained even after a member's term ends.

Clause 4.11 — Periodic Review

4.11.1 This policy shall be reviewed every 12 months or earlier if required by governance changes.

SECTION 5 — COLLABORATION PROTOCOLS BETWEEN COMMITTEES

Clause 5.1 — Purpose

5.1.1 This Section defines the rules, mechanisms and formal procedures for collaboration across committees within the Water Positive Initiative.

5.1.2 Its purpose is to ensure coherence, facilitate cross-sector work, prevent duplication, and guarantee that all outputs follow a harmonized, validated and transparent process.

Clause 5.2 — Principles of Inter-Committee Collaboration

All collaborative work must follow these principles:

- a) Coherence: Outputs must align with the Water Positive vision, mission, Framework and governance rules.
 - b) Scientific accuracy: All technical content must be validated by the STC.
 - c) Methodological integrity: All frameworks or indicators must align with the FC.
 - d) Transparency: Decisions and materials must be documented and accessible.
 - e) Non-duplication: Committees must coordinate to avoid overlap or conflicting outputs.
 - f) Inclusiveness: All relevant committees must be involved in multi-sector topics.
 - g) Timeliness: Collaboration must follow the timelines defined by governance protocols.
 - h) Neutrality: No committee may use collaboration to favor specific companies or interests.
-

Clause 5.3 — Types of Collaboration

Collaboration may occur in one of the following forms:

5.3.1 — Mandatory Collaboration

Required when:

- a) multiple committees hold expertise on the topic;
- b) the output impacts several sectors;
- c) the Framework may be affected;
- d) the output requires cross-disciplinary validation.

Mandatory collaboration includes:

- Framework development (FC + STC + relevant sector committees),
 - Educational content (ECBC + STC + Communications),
 - Public reports (STC + Communications + relevant committee),
 - Methodological updates (FC + STC + Governance).
-

5.3.2 — Optional Collaboration

Committees may proactively request collaboration when beneficial but not mandatory.

Examples include:

- a) sharing insights for sectoral briefs,
 - b) co-organizing workshops or technical meetings,
 - c) exchanging data or best practices.
-

5.3.3 — Advisory Collaboration

Occurs when one committee provides input or expertise but is not responsible for the final output.

Examples:

- LAU reviewing legal considerations,
 - Governance Committee advising on procedural issues,
 - Communications reviewing messaging.
-

Clause 5.4 — Process for Initiating Collaboration

5.4.1 — Step 1: Identification of Need

Any committee may identify the need for collaboration and must notify:

- a) the other committee involved,
 - b) the Governance Committee if guidance is needed.
-

5.4.2 — Step 2: Terms of Collaboration

Committees must define:

- a) purpose and scope,
- b) responsibilities of each committee,
- c) expected outputs,
- d) timelines,
- e) validation requirements (STC, FC, Board).

These are recorded in a “Collaboration Note”.

5.4.3 — Step 3: Joint Work and Documentation

Committees shall:

- a) meet jointly as needed,
 - b) document discussions,
 - c) prepare minutes and proposed drafts,
 - d) ensure alignment with the Framework and scientific validation.
-

5.4.4 — Step 4: Review and Validation

Steps:

- a) draft output → reviewed by involved committees,
 - b) methodological aspects → validated by FC,
 - c) scientific aspects → validated by STC,
 - d) legal aspects → reviewed by LAC (if applicable),
 - e) communications → validated by Communications Committee.
-

5.4.5 — Step 5: Approval and Release

- a) operational outputs: approved by involved committees,
 - b) technical outputs: approved by STC,
 - c) strategic or public outputs: require Board approval.
-

Clause 5.5 — Collaboration Timeline Standards

5.5.1 — Standard Timeline

Each committee will agree on a standard timeline depending on the needs of each project and the availability of the members involved.

Clause 5.6 — Conflict Resolution Mechanism

5.6.1 If committees disagree:

- a) the Governance Committee mediates;
- b) if unresolved, the matter is escalated to the Board.

5.6.2 Committees must avoid unilateral action until the issue is resolved.

Clause 5.7 — Cross-Committee Confidentiality

5.7.1 Collaborating committees must maintain confidentiality on:

- a) draft documents,
 - b) sensitive technical content,
 - c) institutional negotiations,
 - d) preliminary analysis.
-

Clause 5.8 — Record-Keeping

5.8.1 The Governance Committee shall archive:

- a) Collaboration Notes,
 - b) meeting minutes,
 - c) validated drafts,
 - d) final outputs.
-

SECTION 6 — COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL & PUBLIC REPRESENTATION RULES

Clause 6.1 — Purpose

6.1.1 This Section establishes the rules and procedures governing internal and external communications within the Water Positive Initiative.

6.1.2 Its purpose is to ensure that all public communication is:

- a) accurate,
- b) neutral,
- c) scientifically validated,
- d) aligned with the official mission and Framework,
- e) institutionally coherent.

6.1.3 This Section protects the integrity, credibility and public positioning of Water Positive.

Clause 6.2 — Communications Committee Mandate

6.2.1 The Communications Committee is the body responsible for:

- a) reviewing and approving all public-facing content;
 - b) maintaining brand integrity and institutional messaging;
 - c) ensuring scientific validation (via STC) and methodological accuracy (via FC);
 - d) coordinating global campaigns and communication strategies;
 - e) managing official social media, website updates, newsletters and institutional statements;
 - f) ensuring multilingual communication consistency.
-

Clause 6.3 — Principles for Public Communication

All public communication must respect the following principles:

- a) Neutrality — no commercial, political or promotional content.
 - b) Scientific accuracy — all technical statements must be validated by the STC.
 - c) Methodological coherence — all references to the Framework must follow FC guidance.
 - d) Consistency — messaging must align with institutional narratives.
 - e) Inclusiveness — communication must reflect the global and diverse nature of Water Positive.
 - f) Integrity — no misrepresentation of roles, results or partnerships.
 - g) Transparency — clear acknowledgment of contributors without promoting private entities.
-

Clause 6.4 — Authorized Spokespersons

6.4.1 Only the following roles may represent Water Positive publicly:

- a) President
- b) Vice President
- c) General Secretary
- d) Communications Committee Chair
- e) Board-approved representatives for specific events

6.4.2 Committee members may present technical content only when:

- a) requested by the Communications Committee,
- b) authorized by the Board, and
- c) speaking strictly within their mandate.

6.4.3 Unauthorized public representation constitutes an ethical violation under Section 4.

Clause 6.5 — Approval Process for Public Content

6.5.1 — Step 1: Submission

Members wishing to publish content must submit:

- a) draft text,
 - b) supporting documents,
 - c) required validations (STC, FC), if technical.
-

6.5.2 — Step 2: Internal Review

The Communications Committee reviews:

- a) accuracy,
 - b) neutrality,
 - c) alignment with institutional tone,
 - d) risk of commercial influence,
 - e) clarity and quality of language.
-

6.5.3 — Step 3: Scientific & Methodological Validation

If the content includes technical or scientific claims:

- a) the STC must validate scientific accuracy;
 - b) the FC must validate references to frameworks and indicators.
-

6.5.4 — Step 4: Brand and Identity Review

The Communications Committee ensures:

- a) correct and authorized use of logos;
 - b) compliance with brand guidelines;
 - c) no misuse of identity for commercial advantage.
-

6.5.5 — Step 5: Approval

Public dissemination requires:

- a) approval of the Communications Committee, and
 - b) Board approval for institutional statements or sensitive topics.
-

Clause 6.6 — Rules for Social Media and Public Posts

6.6.1 Members may share or support official Water Positive content but may not:

- a) announce partnerships, collaborations or institutional decisions,
- b) speak on behalf of Water Positive without authorization,
- c) use the initiative to promote their company or products,
- d) present personal opinions as institutional positions.

6.6.2 If members mention their involvement, they must state:

"Views are personal and do not represent official positions of Water Positive."

6.6.3 All members should refer to the **WPTT Onboarding Pack** document which states all the good practices related to WPTT messages on social media.

Clause 6.7 — Rules for Use of the Water Positive Brand

6.7.1 — Permitted Use

The Water Positive logo or identity may be used when:

- a) approved by the Communications Committee,
- b) in official materials or events endorsed by the Board.

6.7.2 — Prohibited Use

The brand may not be used for:

- a) commercial promotion of products or companies;
 - b) individual visibility or marketing;
 - c) external certification unless formally approved by the Board;
 - d) political statements or lobbying.
-

Clause 6.8 — Official Communication Channels

Authorized channels include:

- a) official Water Positive website,
- b) institutional social media accounts,
- c) newsletters and official bulletins,
- d) communications distributed by the Communications Committee.

Personal channels are not considered official.

Clause 6.9 — Coordination for International or Regional Events

6.9.1 Participation in events must be validated by:

- a) the Communications Committee (messaging),
- b) relevant thematic committees (content),
- c) the Board (institutional representation).

6.9.2 Official representation at global fora (UN, COP, EU, regional summits) requires Board approval.

Clause 6.10 — Crisis Communication Protocol

6.10.1 In case of misinformation, reputational risk or public crisis:

- a) Communications Committee leads the response;
 - b) President or Vice President act as spokespersons;
 - c) all members must refrain from individual public statements;
 - d) official clarifications must be approved by the Board.
-

Clause 6.11 — Confidentiality and Embargo Rules

6.11.1 Draft documents, internal discussions and preliminary findings must not be shared publicly.

6.11.2 Embargoes on reports or statements must be strictly respected.

6.11.3 Violations will be treated as ethical breaches under Section 4.

SECTION 7 — MEETINGS, INTERNAL PROCEDURES & DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

Clause 7.1 — Purpose

7.1.1 This Section establishes the official rules governing meetings, internal workflows, documentation practices, communication channels and procedural standards across the Water Positive Initiative.

7.1.2 Its purpose is to ensure organization-wide coherence, transparency, continuity, efficiency and institutional memory.

Clause 7.2 — Types of Meetings

7.2.1 — Board of Trustees Meetings

- 7.2.1.1 Held at least four times per year.
 - 7.2.1.2 Agenda includes:
 - a) strategic decisions,
 - b) governance updates,
 - c) framework approvals,
 - d) committee reports,
 - e) risk review.
-

7.2.2 — Committee Meetings

- 7.2.2.1 Each committee must meet at least once every 6–8 weeks.
 - 7.2.2.2 Meetings focus on:
 - a) ongoing tasks,
 - b) content development,
 - c) cross-committee coordination when needed,
 - d) review of action items.
-

7.2.3 - All members meeting

- 7.2.3.1 Held at least 3 a year.
-

7.2.4 — Joint Inter-Committee Meetings

- 7.2.3.1 Convened when topics require cross-sector collaboration under Section 5.
-

7.2.5 — Extraordinary or Emergency Meetings

- 7.2.4.1 May be convened by the President, Vice President, General Secretary or Committee Chairs when urgent matters require immediate attention.
-

Clause 7.3 — Meeting Procedures

7.3.1 — Agenda Preparation

- 7.3.1.1 All meetings must have an agenda distributed at least:
 - a) 5 days in advance for Board meetings,
 - b) 3 days in advance for committee meetings.
 - 7.3.1.2 The agenda must include:
 - a) meeting objectives,
 - b) items for discussion,
 - c) required decisions,
 - d) preparatory materials if applicable.
-

7.3.2 — Conduct of Meetings

- 7.3.2.1 Meetings must follow:
 - a) the agenda unless otherwise approved,
 - b) time management principles,
 - c) respectful and constructive communication,
 - d) avoidance of parallel or private discussions.
-

7.3.3 — Quorum

- 7.3.3.1 Committee quorum is met when at least 50% of committee members are present.
 - 7.3.3.2 Board quorum follows Section 3.4.
-

Clause 7.4 — Minutes and Documentation

7.4.1 — Preparation of Minutes

- 7.4.1.1 Minutes must be prepared for:
 - a) Board meetings,
 - b) committee meetings,
 - c) joint inter-committee meetings.
 - 7.4.1.2 Minutes must include:
 - a) summary of discussions,
 - b) decisions taken,
 - c) responsibilities assigned,
 - d) deadlines,
 - e) abstentions or recusals (if any).
-

7.4.2 — Distribution and Approval

- 7.4.2.1 Minutes must be shared within:

- a) 72 hours after Board meetings,
 - b) 72 hours after committee meetings.
- 7.4.2.2 Minutes are considered approved if no corrections are submitted within 5 days.
-

7.4.3 — Archiving

7.4.3.1 The Governance & Transparency Committee maintains the official archive, including:

- a) minutes,
 - b) decision registers,
 - c) versions of working documents,
 - d) collaboration records,
 - e) proposals and validations.
-

Clause 7.5 — Internal Communication Channels

7.5.1 — Approved Platforms

Official internal communication must occur through:

- a) Water Positive email,
- b) official group communication channels validated by the Governance Committee,
- c) the Water Positive repository for documents (e.g., SharePoint, Drive or equivalent),
- d) official meeting platforms.

Any additional channels must be approved.

7.5.2 — Rules for Messaging Apps (Including WhatsApp)

7.5.2.1 Messaging apps may only be used for:

- a) coordination of logistics,
- b) reminders,
- c) sharing meeting links.

7.5.2.2 They cannot be used for:

- a) decision-making,
- b) technical discussions,
- c) sharing drafts of documents,
- d) voting,
- e) governance matters,
- f) sensitive topics.

7.5.2.3 All decisions must be documented in approved formal channels.

7.5.3 — Creation of New Groups

7.5.3.1 Creation of any new communication group (WhatsApp, email list, workspace) requires approval from:

- a) Governance Committee, and
- b) relevant Committee Chair.

7.5.3.2 Unauthorized groups will be closed.

Clause 7.6 — Document Management Standards

7.6.1 — Document Types

Documents are categorized as:

- a) official governance documents,
 - b) methodological documents,
 - c) scientific outputs,
 - d) educational materials,
 - e) internal drafts,
 - f) communication assets.
-

7.6.2 — Version Control

7.6.2.1 Documents must follow a version-control system:

- a) Draft 0.X for early internal versions,
 - b) Version 1.0 for first approved release,
 - c) Incremental updates (1.1, 1.2, etc.) after approvals,
 - d) Version 2.0 for major revisions.
-

7.6.3 — Naming Convention

Documents must include:

- a) document name,
 - b) date,
 - c) committee responsible,
 - d) version number.
-

7.6.4 — Access Control

7.6.4.1 Access permissions must follow:

- a) “need-to-know” principle for sensitive content,

b) open access for general governance documents.

Clause 7.7 — Internal Deadlines

- 7.7.1 Deadlines must be realistic, documented and communicated clearly.
 - 7.7.2 Committees must notify others immediately if timelines cannot be met.
-

Clause 7.8 — Meeting Etiquette and Professional Conduct

- 7.8.1 Members must:
 - a) be punctual,
 - b) read materials in advance,
 - c) respect speaking turns,
 - d) avoid dominating discussions,
 - e) maintain professional tone,
 - f) prevent cross-talk or interruptions.
 - 7.8.2 The meeting Chair may intervene to maintain order.
-

Clause 7.9 — Confidentiality

- 7.9.1 All non-public content discussed in meetings is confidential.
 - 7.9.2 Members may not share internal documents outside their committee unless authorized.
-

Clause 7.10 — Follow-Up and Implementation of Decisions

- 7.10.1 Committees must track action items and report progress in each meeting.
 - 7.10.2 The Governance Committee may request status updates.
-

SECTION 8 — MEMBERSHIP, ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Clause 8.1 — Purpose

- 8.1.1 This Section establishes the categories of membership, the roles and responsibilities of participants, and the standards of conduct expected within the Water Positive Initiative.
 - 8.1.2 It ensures clarity, fairness and alignment between roles, commitments and institutional expectations.
-

Clause 8.2 — Categories of Membership

Water Positive recognizes the following categories:

8.2.1 — General Members & Supporters

- 8.2.1.1 Individuals participating in thematic committees or community activities.
 - 8.2.1.2 General members contribute expertise, review documents, participate in discussions, and support committee tasks.
-

8.2.2 — Committee Members

- 8.2.2.1 Members formally assigned to one or more committees with specific responsibilities.
 - 8.2.2.2 Committee Members must meet participation standards defined in Clause 8.6.
-

8.2.3 — Committee Chairs

- 8.2.3.1 Each committee elects or appoints a Chair responsible for:
 - a) coordination,
 - b) agenda preparation,
 - c) reporting to the Board via the Committee Representative,
 - d) ensuring deadlines and processes are respected.
-

8.2.4 — Board of Trustees Members

- 8.2.4.1 Composed of:
 - a) President
 - b) Vice President
 - c) General Secretary
 - d) Chairs/Representatives of each thematic committee
 - 8.2.4.2 The Board governs strategic decisions as defined in Section 3.
-

8.2.5 — Advisory Members

- 8.2.5.1 Individuals providing expertise without assuming operational responsibilities.
 - 8.2.5.2 Advisory Members may include scientific experts, legal advisors, youth advisors or institutional partners.
-

Clause 8.3 — Admission of New Members

8.3.1 — Eligibility Criteria

Candidates must:

- a) demonstrate relevant expertise or commitment,
 - b) align with Water Positive values,
 - c) accept the Ethics & Conflict of Interest rules (Section 4),
 - d) commit to participating actively.
-

8.3.2 — Admission Process

8.3.2.1 Applicants may apply through the webpage

8.3.2.2 Applicants may be nominated by:

- a) an existing member, or
- b) a Committee Chair.

8.3.2.3 Admission requires:

- a) review by the relevant committee,
 - b) validation by the Governance Committee,
 - c) approval by the Board in case of leadership roles.
-

8.3.3 — Orientation

New members receive:

- a) the charter,
 - b) the Water Positive Framework overview,
 - c) committee-specific onboarding,
 - d) communication standards and protocols.
-

Clause 8.4 — Duration of Membership

8.4.1 Membership does not expire unless:

- a) the member voluntarily withdraws,
 - b) the member is removed due to inactivity or ethical breaches (Clause 8.9).
-

Clause 8.5 — Roles and Core Responsibilities

8.5.1 — Responsibilities of All Members

All members must:

- a) participate actively and regularly,
 - b) communicate respectfully and professionally,
 - c) comply with deadlines and commitments,
 - d) avoid conflicts of interest (Section 4),
 - e) uphold the mission, vision and integrity of Water Positive,
 - f) document their contributions when required,
 - g) follow governance and communication protocols.
-

8.5.2 — Responsibilities of Committee Members

Committee Members must:

- a) contribute substantively to discussions and deliverables,
 - b) review and provide feedback on documents,
 - c) support cross-committee collaboration when relevant,
 - d) help maintain neutrality and methodological rigor,
 - e) support the Committee Chair with assigned tasks.
-

8.5.3 — Responsibilities of Committee Chairs

Chairs must:

- a) attend at least 70% of committee meetings,

Responsibilities:

- a) convene meetings,
 - b) prepare agendas,
 - c) monitor progress on tasks,
 - d) coordinate with other committees as needed,
 - e) report outcomes to the Board representative,
 - f) enforce governance and collaboration protocols,
 - g) manage internal communications within the committee,
 - h) ensure draft documents follow proper procedures.
-

8.5.4 — Responsibilities of Board Representatives

Board Representatives must:

- a) attend all Board meetings (minimum 75% attendance),
 - b) present updates from their committee,
 - c) communicate Board decisions back to the committee,
 - d) uphold neutrality and collective governance,
 - e) ensure committee proposals follow the decision-making rules in Section 3.
-

8.5.5 — Responsibilities of Advisory Members

Advisory Members:

- a) provide expertise when requested,
 - b) do not participate in decision-making,
 - c) support committees with specialized insight,
 - d) may be invited to specific meetings on an ad-hoc basis.
-

Clause 8.6 — Participation Standards

8.6.1 Active participation is required to maintain membership status.

8.6.2 Standards include:

- a) participation in minimum 70% of meetings,
 - b) completion of assigned tasks within timelines,
 - c) responsiveness within 7 days to committee communication,
 - d) adherence to Section 7 rules for meetings and documentation.
-

Clause 8.7 — Performance Review

8.7.1 Committee Chairs shall perform annual reviews of participation and contributions.

8.7.2 The Governance Committee may request performance updates.

8.7.3 Members with exceptional contributions may be recognized formally.

Clause 8.8 — Suspension or Reassignment

8.8.1 A member may be reassigned or suspended if:

- a) they fail to meet participation standards,
- b) they repeatedly miss deadlines,
- c) they violate communication rules,
- d) they fail to disclose conflicts of interest.

8.8.2 Suspension requires review by the Governance Committee and approval by the Board.

Clause 8.9 — Removal from Membership

A member may be removed if:

- a) they commit serious ethical violations,
- b) they misuse the Water Positive identity,
- c) they engage in commercial promotion through the initiative,
- d) they act contrary to the mission or governance rules,
- e) they fail to comply after repeated warnings.

Removal requires:

- a) recommendation by the Governance Committee, and
 - b) two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) approval of the Board.
-

Clause 8.10 — Voluntary Withdrawal

Members may withdraw at any time by providing written notice to:

- a) their Committee Chair, and
 - b) the Governance Committee.
-

Clause 8.11 — Rejoining After Withdrawal or Removal

8.11.1 Former members may reapply after 12 months.

8.11.2 Re-entry requires:

- a) new application,
 - b) conflict-of-interest disclosure,
 - c) Board approval.
-

Clause 8.12 — Recognition of Contribution

8.12.1 The initiative may acknowledge contributions through:

- a) Letters of Appreciation,
- b) public recognition (approved by Communications Committee),
- c) formal inclusion in annual reports.

SECTION 9 — AMENDMENTS, REVIEW CYCLE & TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Clause 9.1 — Purpose

10.1.1 This Section defines the rules and procedures for amending, updating and implementing the Water Positive Governance & Transparency charter.

10.1.2 Its objective is to ensure that the charter remains accurate, relevant, aligned with institutional needs and coherent with evolving scientific knowledge.

Clause 9.2 — Principles for Amendments

Amendments to this charter must follow the principles of:

- a) Transparency — all modifications are openly communicated;
 - b) Neutrality — changes must serve the common good of the initiative, not individual interests;
 - c) Scientific and methodological alignment — amendments must be consistent with the STC and FC guidance;
 - d) Inclusiveness — committees must be able to contribute to relevant amendments;
 - e) Institutional continuity — changes must preserve stability and predictability.
-

Clause 9.3 — Amendment Procedure

Amendments follow a structured process:

9.3.1 — Step 1: Proposal Submission

9.3.1.1 Any committee, the STC, the LAU or the Governance Council may submit an amendment proposal.

9.3.1.2 The proposal must include:

- a) purpose and justification;
 - b) specific clauses affected;
 - c) scientific or methodological evidence if applicable;
 - d) consultation required from other committees.
-

9.3.2 — Step 2: Governance Council Review

9.3.2.1 The GTC reviews:

- a) procedural compliance,
- b) whether the amendment conflicts with other sections,
- c) clarity and feasibility.

9.3.2.2 The GTC may request adjustments before moving forward.

9.3.3 — Step 3: Scientific/Technical Validation (if applicable)

9.3.3.1

If the amendment affects technical or methodological content:

- a) the STC must validate scientific accuracy,
- b) the FC must validate methodological coherence.

9.3.3.2

Validation must occur before Board review.

9.3.4 — Step 4: Board Review

9.3.4.1 The amendment is presented to the Board of Trustees for discussion.

9.3.4.2 Board members may request supporting documents, additional analysis or clarifications.

9.3.5 — Step 5: Voting

9.3.5.1 Amendments require approval by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority of the Board.

9.3.5.2 Approved amendments become effective immediately unless otherwise stated.

Clause 9.4 — Periodic Review Cycle

9.4.1 — Regular Review

9.4.1.1 The charter shall be reviewed in its entirety every 24 months.

9.4.2 — Mid-Term Review

9.4.2.1 A mid-term assessment occurs every 12 months to identify:

- a) sections requiring updates,
- b) procedural challenges,
- c) governance improvements.

9.4.3 — Extraordinary Review

9.4.3.1 An extraordinary review may occur if:

- a) major governance challenges arise,
 - b) significant scientific advancements affect the Framework,
 - c) structural organizational changes are required,
 - d) external risks require adaptation.
-

Clause 9.5 — Communication of Amendments

9.5.1 Once approved, the Governance Council shall:

- a) update the official version of the charter,
 - b) archive the previous version,
 - c) communicate changes to all members,
 - d) ensure the updated version is accessible in the official repository.
-

Clause 9.6 — Transitional Provisions

Transitional rules ensure smooth implementation of the charter.

9.6.1 — Immediate Application

9.6.1.1 This charter becomes effective on the date of Board approval.

9.6.2 — Transitional Period for Committees

9.6.2.1 Committees shall have 90 days to:

- a) adapt internal structures,
 - b) elect or confirm Chairs,
 - c) appoint Board representatives,
 - d) designate focal points for collaboration,
 - e) align their work with new protocols.
-

9.6.3 — Transitional Period for Membership Compliance

9.6.3.1 Members have 60 days to comply with:

- a) participation standards,
 - b) conflict-of-interest disclosure,
 - c) communication protocols.
-

9.6.4 — Initial Onboarding Under New charter

9.6.4.1 All current members shall undergo mandatory onboarding:

- a) overview of the charter,
 - b) clarification of roles,
 - c) explanation of communication rules,
 - d) conflict-of-interest registration.
-

9.6.5 — Legacy Documents and Pending Processes

9.6.5.1 Documents or processes initiated prior to approval:

- a) will be evaluated by the GTC,
 - b) adapted to the new rules when feasible,
 - c) require revalidation if involving scientific or methodological content.
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9.6.6 — Integrity Clause

9.6.6.1 No existing member, committee or leader may bypass the transitional rules.

9.6.6.2 Failure to comply may trigger accountability mechanisms under Section 8 and Section 4.

Clause 9.7 — Final Authority

9.7.1 The Board of Trustees is the ultimate authority on:

- a) interpreting the charter,
- b) resolving ambiguity,
- c) approving amendments,
- d) ensuring institutional coherence.