

WATER AS A LIVING COMMONS:

PRINCIPLES FOR WATER JUSTICE AND DEMOCRATIC FUTURES

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Cases studied:

- Marañón River Legal Case Led by Kukama Women and María Luz Canaquiri (Amazonas, Loreto, Peru)
- Europe, Gugulethu, Water Point Upgrade (Cape Town, South Africa)
- Lynetteholmen Urban Land Reclamation on the Øresund Strait (Copenhagen, Denmark)
- Environmental Vision Plan for the Ecological Restoration of the Asi River (Hatay, Türkiye)
- Sustainable Redevelopment of Varvsstaden - former shipyard (Malmö, Sweden)
- Privatisation and Development of Public Pools (Milan, Italy)
- Gentrification of the Navigli Canal District (Milan, Italy)
- Sacred African Animist and Zioni Water Rituals (Mohokare Valley and Mautse, South Africa)
- WaterCAN Citizen Science Map (Online, South Africa)



Water as a Living Commons

Principles for Water Justice and Democratic Futures

Water shapes the conditions of life on Earth, yet contemporary urbanization continues to treat it as a commodity, an obstacle, or a technical problem to be managed. Today's climate realities, drought, heat, flooding, and contamination, show that such paradigms are no longer tenable. A just and livable future requires reframing water as a living system, a cultural and ecological commons, and a site of democratic responsibility. This manifesto proposes commoning principles for recognizing, positioning, and acting toward water justice in cities across the world.

