



AMAZON

WATERS

ALLIANCE

Amazon Waters Alliance
Manifesto

May 2023



The Amazon Waters Alliance is an initiative that contributes to generating scientific evidence to inform decisions in a cost-effective manner, promoting the building of an informed public in favor of conservation, and empowering citizens to care for the Amazon Basin. In this way, we contribute to maintaining the connectivity of this vast, interconnected, and dynamic freshwater system, supporting the well-being of humans, wildlife, and the environments on which they depend.

Citizens and scientists create knowledge about aquatic ecosystems from an integrated basin approach, relying on innovation and technology to generate accessible, reliable and timely data and information to guide decision making.

We build upon what has been built, in this sense, we adhere to declarations such as the Open and Collaborative Science Manifesto¹. We recognize that citizen science is one of the pillars for the development of open science². A science that recognizes that all people can participate in the construction of knowledge. We seek the development of "a science that not only satisfies the material and intellectual needs of society, but also allows us to use knowledge as a way to achieve well-being, social justice and sustainable development"³.

The Alliance adopts 7 principles from the Open and Collaborative Science Manifesto⁴ and adds an additional principle. According to it, the principles that guide the functioning of the Alliance are: 1) promote knowledge as a common good; 2) integrate different scientific traditions and ways of knowing; 3) address the role of power and inequality in the production and distribution of knowledge; 4) create opportunities for participation in all stages of the research process; 5) foster equitable collaboration between scientists and social actors; 6) encourage the design of inclusive information and communication mechanisms, 7) improve the well-being of our society and our planet and 8) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of partner organizations, allies and key actors.

Our guiding principles are:

Integrated, at-scale vision of the Amazon Basin: We focus our work on the Amazon Basin from a multiscale and integrative perspective with a basin approach, recognizing that the Amazonian ecosystem is interconnected and requires a local, regional, and global vision to address its conservation and development. We acknowledge that data must be aggregated and accessible at multiple scales to effectively inform conservation or management decisions where they are made—for example, communities, social organizations, sub-basins, political jurisdictions, or the entire Amazon Basin. The Alliance's thematic priorities focus on freshwater ecosystems (starting with water and fish) and their interrelationship with people.

¹ Open and Collaborative Science Manifesto: towards an inclusive open science for social and environmental well-being. Open and Collaborative Science in Development Network (OCSN Net). Available at: <https://ocsdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Manifesto-Infographic-Spanish-1.pdf>

² "Open science is the movement to make scientific research, data, and dissemination accessible to all levels of an interested society." [Open Science Handbook \(2018\)](#). More information at: <https://www.fosteropenscience.eu/taxonomy/term/7>

³ Ibid.

⁴ UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. Available at https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949_spa



Diversity of knowledge: we build knowledge on the pillars of citizen science and open science. We recognize the diversity of knowledge, and the need to discuss and integrate, especially local and indigenous knowledge and wisdom. We promote interdisciplinarity, interculturality, diversity of visions and types of knowledge as keys to the development of our objectives.

Innovation, experimentation and learning: we are a space to innovate and we consider that learning in itself is already an important achievement that will help us to be more effective in our work. We are a space for experimentation where we build new things from everyone's experience. As part of this, we explore new questions and promote innovation to solve concrete problems. We seek to develop functional technological solutions according to the context where they are required, promoting that they are low-cost and have autonomy of use, especially by local communities.

Collaboration: We facilitate the creation of connections between scientists and civil society, each with their own objectives, and working together in participatory spaces of collaboration. We believe in building equitable relationships that benefit both parties in the generation of knowledge. We promote fair collaboration based on transparency and ethics.

Situated openness: we promote a culture of openness. We want the Alliance to contribute to society with open data and information for decision-making. However, we recognize that the generation of knowledge must respond to its context and be responsible for the potential impacts it may generate. For this reason, we believe that the Alliance must maintain a conscious reflection on what, when and how the data and information it generates is shared.

Respect: for human rights and the sovereignty of countries, their territories, knowledge and culture.

Diversity, equity and inclusion of partner organizations, allies and key actors: We are a diverse space due to our origins, interests, expectations, cultures, academic backgrounds, roles, gender, among other aspects. We recognize the value and richness of our differences and diversity to build innovative solutions from what unites us, rather than from our particularities. We promote the recognition and full participation of partners, allies, and key actors in decision-making and governance of the Amazon Basin, generating strategies and actions of inclusion and equity that allow everyone to express themselves, develop their expectations, and contribute to the conservation and management of the Amazon Basin. Differences are respected and considered. Active participation of less represented groups is promoted, and their rights are safeguarded, in contrast to other actors with greater representation and agency.

We share knowledge and connect people to understand and conserve the aquatic ecosystems of the Amazon!

Cite as: **Alianza Aguas Amazónicas (2023)**. Manifiesto of the Amazon Waters Alliance. Soacha, K., Varese, M., Eyng, V., Gomes, M., Hanks, C., Rada, O., Anderson, E., Wood, C., Leite, G., Bonilla, C. Lehm, Z. Rodriguez, V. Casas, Silvia. Available at: <https://aguasamazonicas.org/>

Document control:

Version	Description	Date	Author(s)
1.0	Creation of the Manifiesto of the Citizen Science Network for Amazonia	30-Aug- 2019	Soacha, K., Varese, M., Eyng, V., Gomes, M., Hanks, C., Rada, O., Anderson, E., Wood, C., Leite, G., Bonilla, C. Lehm, Z.
2.0	Modification of the Manifiesto for the Merger of RCCA with the Amazon Waters Initiative approved by the Assembly	25-May-2023	Soacha, K., Varese, M., Eyng, V., Gomes, M., Hanks, C., Rada, O., Anderson, E., Wood, C., Leite, G., Bonilla, C. Lehm, Z. Rodriguez, V. Casas.



License: This document is published under a Creative Commons Attribution license.

You can remix, modify and create from this work, even for commercial purposes, as long as you give the corresponding credits. To view a copy of this license visit:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.es> 4.0

We would like to inform our readers that the original version of this document is in Spanish (available here [\[LINK\]](#)) (or can be requested by email to [\[gleite@wcs.org\]](mailto:gleite@wcs.org)). In case of discrepancy with other versions in different languages, the Spanish version will take precedence and will be the only one valid for all purposes.