



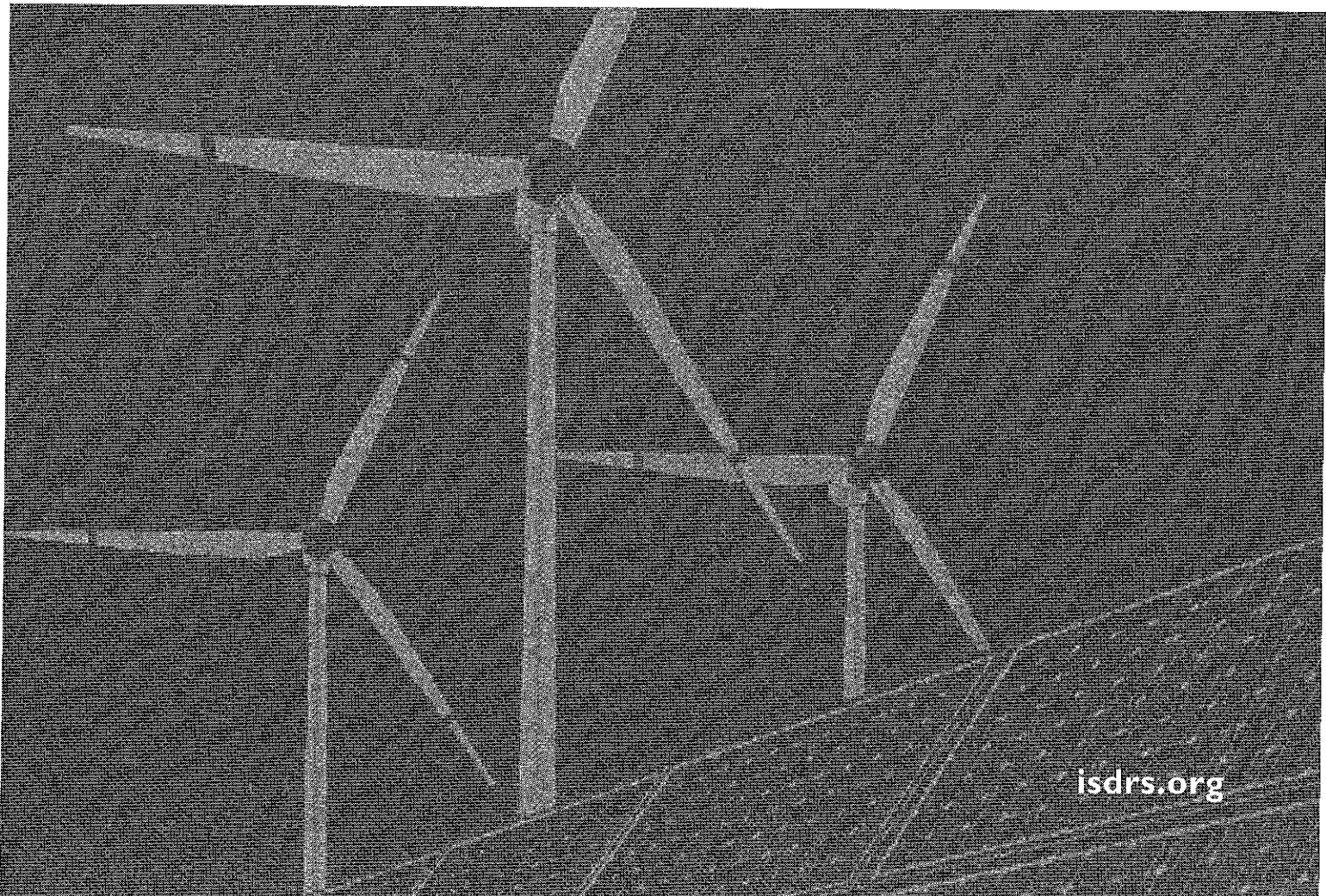
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# PROCEEDINGS

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Accelerating the progress towards  
the 2030 SDGs in times of crisis

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## Re-evaluate water governance: A cross model between law and management

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### Abstract

Freshwater is source of life for human beings and, in the meantime, is characterized by scarcity, vulnerability and - sometimes - a non-equitable distribution. Water is also an important resource, useful for different human activities, interests and purposes. Firstly, water is used in different production processes as fundamental production input in the primary sector (i.e. agriculture, fishing) but also in manufacturing (for instance, textile and paper production) and the third sector (tourism activities and hospitality sector). Furthermore, thanks to hydropower installations water is an important primary source of renewable energy too. In doing so, it contributes to decarbonize the energy sector by reducing greenhouse gases emissions (in particular, carbon dioxide) during the energy production phase. Due to climate change, however, freshwater is becoming scarcer, and a suitable water governance can play a fundamental role for managing its different uses, which may be in competition among each other.

Starting from these premises, this contribution aims to reflect on the three environmental governance pillars - participatory rights for nature: access to information, access to participation, access to justice, through critical legal analysis and the ecological ethics of empathy (ability to enter in communion with the others' emotions), compassion (ability to feel together), and care (ability to take restoring actions). The objectives of the research are to i) redesign the legal response to the ecological challenges concerning water, with a focus on our obligations towards water (rights of water), ii) explore on the role of the different freshwater uses as key components of an improved water resources management.

In the long term, the study is expected to contribute to the scientific progress towards the achievement of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in times of environmental and health crisis, by reflecting upon water governance model that bridges legal and management issues. More specifically, the study scope is linked to SDG 6: *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*, targets 6.1, 6.4 and 6.5.

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## MODELING WATER GOVERNANCE WITH EMPATHY, COMPASSION, AND CARE



### FACTS

Water is the most essential element for life

Water acts as a powerful medium of living beings and places

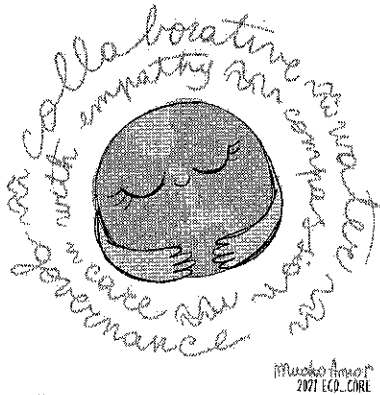
Water governance must ensure that humans are responsibly and collectively contributing to a healthy water system

### Regulatory and Material Challenges

Top-down regulatory approaches have failed to meet any of the global environmental goals (i.e. Paris agreement, Agenda 2030).

Thus, we increasingly face water-related challenges such as:

- scarcity;
- contamination; and
- inequitable distribution.



### Objective

Develop a collaborative water management and governance model (CWMG) responsive to the challenges

1. with a structure that revisits the participatory rights for water through empathy, compassion, and care

2. built on community-based research

3. embedded in the vision of the integral ecology

### The ABC of Water Governance

**A** for... Access rights for... **C**ompassion: ability to enter in communion with others

**C** for... **C**ommunity based research: research that involves communities; **C**are: ability to take restoring actions; **C**ompassion: ability to feel together

**E** for... **E**mpathy: ability to enter in communion with the emotions of others

**G** for... **G**overnance: a polycentric actor-inclusive concept

**M** for ... **M**anagement: coordinated tasks for achieving a common goal

**I** for... **I**ntegral Ecology: unifying human and non human elements

**V** for... **V**ulnerable: vulnus refers to the wound to be restored and re-storied



Illustrations:

Salmon, Valentina Russo, Mucho Amor, 2020

La Nostra Terra Sorridente, for ECO\_CARE, V. Russo, Mucho Amor, 2020