

WATER

RETENTION LANDSCAPES AS AN ANSWER TO DESERTIFICATION AND GLOBALISATION

REPORT



SECOND INTERNATIONAL WATER SYMPOSIUM
TAMERA, PORTUGAL • APRIL 27TH – 29TH 2012



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In cooperation with the Institute for Global Peacework (IGP), Tamera

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In these times of worldwide water crisis, Tamera and the Grace Foundation have invited specialists and decision makers from different countries and different fields of knowledge to their 2nd International Water Symposium. While there are ever more people, animals and ecosystems on earth affected by water scarcity, multinational corporations profit by creating centralized water supply systems. Water has become a commodity. To change this situation alternatives are needed. The Water Symposium in Tamera gathered 30 experts and 200 participants in order to present decentralized and natural solutions.



REPORT

THE POWER OF WATER

How powerful the element water can be, the participants could learn from the spectacular weather during its three and a half days. Heavy rain and bright sunshine, thunder and rainbows followed each other. From the main assembly hall, the Aula, the audience could always see a part of the Water Retention Landscape of Tamera - a comprehensive model for landscape healing, organic food production in permaculture, and reforestation - embedded in a community for peace research. The Water Retention Landscape has been being built since 2007 with the help of ecological visionary Sepp Holzer from Austria.

It gives an idea of how comprehensive and radical alternatives have to be in order to be able to stop desertification and give an answer to the injustice and destructiveness of globalization. Along the course of these days the thought of the late water researcher Viktor Schauberg became more and more tangible: The unveiling of the secret of water will put an end to any kind of speculation, as it will make water, food, and energy freely accessible to all of humankind. It was a meeting of worldwide experts and activists first of all to see that there are decentralized alternatives also applicable on a global scale, and then to understand and work out some very concrete examples to manifest those alternatives in different regions of the world - including their ecological, technical, social and economical aspects. A number of models built under different conditions could make decentralized water retention landscapes including food autonomy, landscape healing and the building of sustainable communities a global alternative.

"I was surprised to see how many aspects can be combined with proper water management", water engineer George Wambugu from Kenya said. In his own country he has built many decentralized water systems to prevent desertification. "But only here I see how important the combinations are: with growing food autonomy, with energy production, and with a community of people who believe in what they are doing." Gabriella Zanzanini, the director of European Affairs for Food and Water Watch said: "When fighting the unjust and destruction systems, the big questions is: What alternatives do we have after we win? The more examples of alternatives there are, the richer our movement becomes. The more information we have on what we can do, like here in Tamera, the more we can use it and spread it all around the world."

There was for example Rajendra Singh, the "water man" from Rajasthan. The Aula was filled with Rajendra's outcries of holy rage when he described the strategies of the multinational agricultural companies. "They are destroying the water tables, they poison the soil, they cut the trees, they turn fertile land into desert, and leave." Applying simple traditional techniques and with the help of local population he was able to reverse desertification on an area of 8.600 square kilometers. Seven dry rivers are now flowing again. Drought migration could be stopped, families have returned because they can now live again off their land, thanks to the simple technique of retaining rainwater and giving it time to soak into the soil at as many sites as possible. Also in the symposium's host country, Portugal, the results of centralized water systems and globalized agriculture can be seen, with all its bitter effects. Especially after a winter with little rain,



like this year's, many farmers are forced to give up. Decentralized water retention on many sites could be an easy and relatively cost-effective way to provide enough water for agriculture, wildlife and forests, especially for a country in economic crisis such as Portugal. One idea which was discussed intensively is the "1000 lakes in the Alentejo". Landowners, unemployed people, communities of this region threatened by desertification could come together and created many decentralized water retention landscapes as a new beginning for rural development. Tamera is ready to assist and teach.

Michal Kravčik from Slovakia explained why "the true reason for climate change is wrong water management." As a water engineer he had built lots of large concrete dams. However with the breakdown of the socialistic system his own beliefs also changed, and he started to study the being of water and to let it guide him. With the help of his government he has started a project to fight "floods, droughts and climate change". 7700 unemployed people have helped to build 80,000 retention structures all around the country. Michal Kravčik's aim is to continue this work and to reach a point in which no rainwater leaves Slovakia anymore – only spring water.

Bolivia has another very special role in the water movement: it is the first country that has declared the right to clean water access as a human right. Now the government is looking for alternative systems that can supply the whole population with water and food. The representative of the Bolivian government, Luis Rojas Martinez, was convinced by the Tamera model. He wants to make this knowledge accessible to Bolivia as soon as possible.

In walks and talks and sharing circles also the spiritual and social aspects of water were described. "Water is a living being", said Bernd Müller. "It wants to be treated like a living being, it wants to move in a natural way, in order to stay alive."

"If we want to step out of the system of violence we have learn to build sustainable communities", said Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of Tamera. There is no point in having perfect natural water management, if there is not a community around it that knows how to share, how to create trust, and to solve conflicts in the most delicate areas of life, she said. During the symposium many connections were made, co-operations and joint adventures were initiated. The Tamera Water Retention Landscape has stepped on an international stage of public attention - which was confirmed when after the symposium it was announced as a finalist in the Buckminster Fuller Challenge.

Some experts expressed the wish for a long lasting platform of cooperation, for example a global water council for the development of alternatives could emerge. The next step in this direction and the next meeting place of this movement will be the People's Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

We thank all those who contributed to making this symposium a success, especially the two inspired moderators Benjamin von Mendelssohn and Juliette Baigler, and the brilliant musicians, including the Tamera Choir: in every break you created an atmosphere for the soul that helped us digest the vast amount of information. Thank you!

THOUGHTS & QUOTES OF THE PRESENTATIONS

FOUNDERS OF TAMERA



SABINE LICHTENFELS • GERMANY/PORTUGAL

Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of Tamera, peace ambassador, theologian, carrier of feminine mystery knowledge and author, welcomed the participants on the first evening. "Water is one of the most important teachers to help us find ways to leave the global system of violence and destruction. When we treat water in the right way there will be enough food, water, and energy for every living being on the planet. When I look at the situation today I see many people trying to find alternatives to the system of globalization. Many fight for revolution. However, most of them have no idea of how to live after the revolution, how to live in a new way. People who really want to end war need a vision for peace.

I often hear about the qualities and knowledge of indigenous people. We all have indigenous roots. We all can come back to this knowledge. We want to build Tamera as a model that finds answers to the questions on water, energy, nutrition and how to live together without war, violence and fear. Becoming free from the centralized supply system, building decentralized systems, is a core answer for a non-violent revolution: If we want to step out of the system we have learn to build sustainable communities, independent from governments and corporations that create profit by making war.

'A peace research village instead of a tank' was the slogan I chose for my first pilgrimage. Imagine all ministries of defense will turn into peace research centers working on questions like: How can we treat water, plants, animals and human beings in a humane and sustainable way? What a vision! We mothers would not let our sons or daughters go to war anymore because we would have a better and more powerful perspective.

Water is everywhere, we are all connected through water. Let us work in a way that we can form a global council of water, connected through our mediation and prayers, by the knowledge of alternatives and political action worldwide."

More: www.sabine-lichtenfels.com



DIETER DUHM • GERMANY/PORTUGAL

Dieter Duhm, sociologist and founder of Tamera outlined the vision of a comprehensive model for a new culture and how it encompasses the healing of the material and the internal aspects. "Those who see the pain of the world are at risk to identify with their own pain and thus to lose their capacity to think and to act. In order to remain able to do something we need the image of a sane earth. I call this Terra Nova.

Healing the material conditions of life and healing the internal conditions of life belong together. Love, trust, home, religion - these are the internal conditions for life. Water, energy and food are the material conditions. We want to create a model which brings these aspects together and which is applicable worldwide.

Today, we live in a conflict of two life systems. On the one side, the power of globalization. On the other side life itself is stirring powerfully, in all parts of the world. The youth is fighting but yet has no direction, no perspective. The conflict of these two systems can be found everywhere, in every country and every person. It is called transformation. It leads to collisions between the old and the new. In this collision a new perspective wants to take shape.

Sepp Holzer showed us a perspective for healing nature. Jürgen Kleinwächter showed us a perspective for energy supply. They are ambassadors, mouthpieces of a universal intelligence. They help us to download the latent possibilities of a future life. The result of the global conflict depends on each of us and on which side we are on. We are living in an invisible energy and informational system. We have the task to develop and perceive the patterns which create healing. By doing this we can download concrete utopia."

More: www.dieter-duhm.com

THE WATER RETENTION LANDSCAPE OF TAMERA



SEPP HOLZER • AUSTRIA

The ecological visionary from the Austrian Alps is the consultant of the Tamera ecology team, and has contributed with his advise and knowledge to building the Water Retention Landscape. He started to work with nature and water as a child. What he has learned playfully since the age of 5, he has later applied on large scale. Today he travels constantly teaching people to communicate with nature and to restore large landscapes. "While I was working in Spain, a group from Tamera came to visit me. Inspired by the paradise I had created there they invited me to come to Tamera, where they had similar problems: Muddy winters and dry and dusty summers. Oak trees dying massively. Fires all around.

My proposal of the size of the first lake was way too big for them. Immediately they started to look for excuses, saying why this would be impossible. The public road passed right through the valley where the lake should be, and it wouldn't be possible to move the road since it is forbidden by law to cut even dead oak trees in Portugal. Finally the community took the decision to build the lake. And when you see the effects the lakes have on the landscape you can no longer imagine this land without the lakes.

The police came here, too, and they almost took me. But we finally managed to create the landscape in spite of the strict legislation and in spite of the fact that natural thinking is also forbidden here. Step by step, with our courage and self-confidence we have managed to move the road with the permission of the mayor, who is nowadays thankful for it. In order to show how nature functions you need practical experience, you have to learn to read nature again, to communicate with earth, with water, with other living beings. And then you become part of the natural cycle, which is perfect. And you choose what is simpler, cheaper, more aesthetic in the landscape, and without exerting pressure on nature.

I have just returned from Caucasus in Russia, where thousands of hectares have been burnt down or are still burning. 600 mm of average annual precipitation, 6000 cubic meters of rainwater per hectare, thousands of hectares of land available, and still enormous fires every year. Water runs off to the muddy villages creating floods. Is nature guilty for this? Are these natural disasters? They are human-made disasters, because humans have forgotten how to communicate with nature. So I showed them how to create water retention spaces, how to close the gates and collect the water of these huge catchment areas. It is the easiest way. And it can also be the most profitable way. For that water is life, water is the greatest capital. The water retention landscape can sustain fish, aquatic plants, birds, cattle, wild animals, it can sustain agriculture. And all the land around the lakes benefits immensely because the ground water level is rising up again. You have to use water while it is soft and peaceful and not wait out of your stupidity until it becomes furious and evil. You need to give it the opportunity to protect and nourish you. Once you make water evil by restricting it to channels and taking away the space it needs to flow naturally, then it causes damage and because of it the whole landscape dries out. This is happening now in huge areas in Russia, Ukraine and many of the former Soviet states, where soil erosion is enormous.

If only we could read nature, if only we could see the water retention spaces nature offers us, decentralize water management, grow a diversity of plant species and forget monocultures, where plants compete with each other and exploit the soil. Nature is perfect, and shows us the way when we really look at it. When the soil is covered and shaded by a diversity of vegetation, it attracts the moisture, rain does not run off but gets absorbed instead. When the soil is hot and hard then rain runs off. So much has changed on this land over the last five years. The fruit trees around the lakes are growing and the terraces are thriving. So much has been done, and yet still so little.

Nature is perfect. There is absolutely nothing to be improved. We need to accept it. We need to plant trees for our great grandchildren and we can be sure that we will harvest the benefits already in our own lives as well as our children, who will be happy to continue on the path we started, slowly building a paradise."

More: www.krameterhof.at

THE MODEL AND ITS ECOLOGICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, AND SOCIAL ASPECT

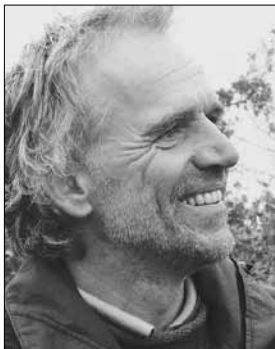


BENJAMIN VON MENDELSSOHN • GERMANY/PORTUGAL

Benjamin, co-worker and one of the leaders of Tamera and international community consultant, spoke about a vision for the next step towards the post capitalistic era, a vision for creating a socially and ecologically sustainable model for peace. He started with a quotation by Tamera's founder Dieter Duhm: "There is the world that has created us and there is a world that we have created. These two worlds must come together, this is the aim of the journey".

"With its exploitation, competition, domination the present system is a globalized model of fear. This is the world we created. We drink fear; eat fear and wear fear everyday, complying with the abuse of the resources of the earth, while we should create coherent system based on trust and cooperation.

In Tamera, we are looking for new paradigm, a system where life is whole and all beings are embedded in universal principals. This vision includes the water retention landscape. When the water cycle is reinstalled the land will be healed, and this is a basis for food and energy production. For this we need to come in contact with nature, and we need a social base of trust and cooperation. Communities are the new social vessels. Tamera is a research center and a university to study and develop the creation of a comprehensive model for the future."



BERND MÜLLER • GERMANY/PORTUGAL

The head of the ecology department of Tamera presented the ecological aspects of the model: the vision of the water landscape.

"When you look at the landscape today you can believe that it can serve the whole community and more. We want to show, through this model, another possibility for the farmers. In this region they are very poor and think they have to exploit nature. The farmers of the future have the task to heal the landscape - and thus they will have free access to clean water and an abundance of food. What human beings have destroyed they can also heal. The water retention landscape is a healing landscape.

We don't want to see rain water flowing in the rivers, but the spring water that comes from within the earth. Through the water retention spaces, springs will pop up and provide for us, animals and plants and bring vitality to the whole country. Officially, no one knows how to stop the desertification in Portugal, but we have the answer here. Diversity through a restored water cycle will change the situation.

We are here in a special situation with the Sado river being at the top of watershed. All water that comes here will reach this river. However, Tamera is still small in terms of restoring the water cycle of the entire region. But what will happen when 100 people from Lisbon come and say: We want to learn, we want to see the land in abundance and learn how to direct the natural elements? Then the vision of more models in the Alentejo, with Tamera as an educational site, becomes tangible.

In 10 years, paradise will be visible on this site, not only for animals and plants but for us as well. I wish that this development will inspire more and more farmers and other people to become landscapes healers. Tamera could become a model for the Alentejo. The Alentejo will become a model for Portugal, and Portugal will become a model for the whole world."



JÜRGEN KLEINWÄCHTER • GERMANY

The physicist and inventor of the SolarVillage spoke about a very specific connection of water and light which shall be a vital element in the model for energy autonomy.

"As a physicist I am a student of nature. This morning I saw on the surface of a pond two natural forces meeting. The one is hard and strong: the light. The other is soft and flexible, but also very strong: the water. Radiation and water is the base of our life.

Look at this glass of water with trillions of atoms in it. Putting my finger into it I would say, it is 18° C warm. This is the average temperature of the water.

Now I have a distribution of speed of the different molecules of this water, which is a statistic distribution. It means that some of them are hotter than 100°. The hotter molecules are moving very fast, and when they come to the surface they fight against the air molecules which want to hold them back. But the hot water molecules are so dynamic that they get through. That's why we see the morning fog over the lakes and ponds: a selection of fast water molecules break through the surface into the air and re-condensing into water droplets in the cold morning air above the lake.

This is extremely exiting: The molecules that break through the surface are water vapor molecules pushing away air molecules. What does it mean? Like Archimedes found out when he was thinking about why ships can float, even if the material is heavier than water: they push away a large volume of water, and part of the ship is air, so the ship is lifted. Is a water vapor molecule heavier than an air molecule or lighter? It is lighter. This means that the molecules that came out of the water follow Archimedes principle. And that means that the whole wet air is lifting up even at night time, because the heat of the sun is stored in the water. This is why all the weather machines which we speak about produce an unbelievable amount of energy. This observation will soon lead to some little experiments in the University of Tamera that show how we can use this power to produce useful energy."

Continue: <http://www.tamera.org/index.php?id=905>

More: www.sunvention.org



VERA KLEINHAMMES • GERMANY/PORTUGAL

The head of the Global Campus and Tamera co-worker spoke about the social aspect.

"I thank the wisdom of water for bringing us all together with the intent to contribute to the awakening of humankind and to create paradise. The answers we need nowadays to overcome the planetary crisis are always the result of communitarian intelligence. That is why the main emphasis of Tamera is the social aspect of the model. We need to create spaces where the inner structure of the human being can transform, and we can become capable of living in peace. Looking into nature we see that everything lives in community. It was

only modern society that created the understanding of individualism, which is defined by separation. In nature individualism is determined by the service and the role that the individual plays for the whole. A tree would not be a tree if it were not an open system, connected, and having a specific role in the whole. Creating community is mainly an endeavor of regaining trust, taking away the layers of separation and fear we have put around us, so that we are able to take on our role in the whole. This is what we are working on in Tamera. We have three main ethical rules: truth, mutual support, and responsible participation - in the community and in the world. A good social foundation is the basis of every sustainability. If we are capable of creating community, of learning again how to live together, we recreate the original home of human beings, the original home of life. To live in cooperation with the whole. To live in awareness for the whole. By this we re-integrate the human being into the family of life."



MARTIN WINIECKI • GERMANY/PORTUGAL

As one of the young leaders of Tamera, Martin Winiecki spoke to the youth of the world and the need for perspective, which the international education platform Global Campus tries to offer.

"In these times of crisis, it is a privilege to live in a place where so much knowledge has been gathered for the healing of planet Earth. As a young person I feel that if we have the knowledge for making a change, then we also have the responsibility to make it accessible. My generation has been occupying streets and squares worldwide. The Arab spring has become global. Millions of young people do not want to be part of a destructive system any longer. They need to know that a system change is possible, and how it is possible. Knowledge can be found in many places. We want to gather it in an international education platform we call the Global Campus.

It is all about creating a new perspective. Five years ago we still thought that this land was going to become a desert. Then, with the help of Sepp Holzer, we understood that we can do something - and we made it happen. This wow-factor can appear in any area of knowledge. We invite all experts that are here, to come together for this new University of Life."



THE TAMERA WATER RETENTION LANDSCAPE IS A FINALIST FOR THE 2012 BUCKMINSTER FULLER CHALLENGE

"This is a really impressive project, it's the much larger application of permaculture principles and it's restoring hydrological cycles which is a very immediate issue."

Newton Harrison (Leading Pioneer of the eco-art movement and 2012 Challenge Juror)

http://challenge.bfi.org/2012Finalist_Tamera

GLOBAL EXPERTS AND THEIR EXPERIENCES



RAJENDRA SINGH • INDIA

Rajendra Singh, the "Water Gandhi" from the Rajasthan, has revitalized an area of 8,600 square kilometers. When started his work in 1985 the perennial river once flowing in his region had completely dried up. In the name of the Green Revolution of India intensive irrigation had begun, resulting in rivers drying up and dying, young people migrating to the cities. Only old people and children remained in the villages, agriculture halted and there was no more drinking water. The dry river bed became the road that led people to the city.

"When I started working in the village, there was no soil, grass or greenery left. I knew nothing about water at that time, but I had realized that I could do something. As a medical doctor, I went to the village to cure people's malnutrition and to provide education. An old man from the village shouted at me very angrily, 'We don't need medicine and education. What we need is water, water is what we miss.' And I replied, 'But I don't know anything about water'. And the old man told me, 'I can teach you what you need to know.'

So we started the work with five colleagues. We did not use technology or engineering skills, but we used sense: in India sense and science go hand in hand. We managed to turn the river bed from a dirt road to a continuously flowing river.

By using technology of exploitation all rivers dry and die. When the community realizes that we should give back to nature what we take from her, rivers are rejuvenated. It is very simple, it is not complicated. When there are water retention spaces, the underground aquifer is enriched, the springs start to have water again and then they feed the rivers. But balance is needed between the recharge and the discharge of water, and for this balance to be established discipline is needed. To maintain this discipline 72 communities along the river united to form a River Parliament and to establish rules and regulations for the water management of the river. People came back from the cities and started farming again. The solution for global warming and climate change is local action and traditional wisdom."



MICHAL KRAVČÍK • SLOVAKIA

The Slovakian water engineer used to be a builder of big concrete dams. Today he is standing for decentralized and natural community-based solutions that can serve as models for poor regions all over the world.

"I used to be a technocrat, but I changed to study and deeply understand the holistic being of water, with respect for the environment. We need more water in nature. More water in nature will create not only more ecological stability, but also more social, economical, cultural stability. Rainwater is a key element for water on planet Earth.

When we started our work in Slovakia we first gathered a lot of data and we noticed: In urban zones and in zones of intensive agriculture there lesser amounts of rainwater get soaked into the soil. The rainwater recharge into the soil decreases, and that triggers the small rainwater cycle: The rainwater flows off the land rapidly and that leads to erosion, loss of fertile soils and floods.

One cubic meter of water evaporating into the atmosphere consumes about 700 kWh solar energy. If this water runs out and does not evaporate, it produces heat. All over Europe we have more and more heat islands. The heat prevents rain from falling out of the clouds, which makes them move towards the mountains. The result: More heavy rain on the mountains and less rain on the lowlands. This is the process that leads to climate change.

These are the bad news. The good news are: We can change it. If we manage to have rainwater recharge the soil, we can restore a landscape very fast. During the last 20 years our NGO has built small projects of water retention to restore the hydrological balance. In 2010 when we had a dangerous flood, the go-

vernment approached us in order to start a program for the prevention of floods, droughts, and climate change. In 2011 we spent 42 Mio. Euros, involved 488 communities all over Slovakia and employed 7700 people. Our goal is to recharge the whole amount of rainwater and have it infiltrate to the soil.

We need to keep the rainwater on the land on a global level. If every person on Earth retained only 100 cubic meters of water and helped it infiltrate the soil, we could save the planet in only ten years. There would be no climate change. These are simple solutions for poor people all over the world!"

More: www.ludiaavoda.sk/en



MADJID ABDELLAZIZ • ALGERIA

Madjid Abdellaziz is a modern rain maker using technologies of Wilhelm Reich to green the desert in Algeria. He and his wife Maya started a project with family members to end desertification. After two years of technological work, planting different plants and working the land, the project is already very successful. There was a lot of rain, and many trees and plants are growing. Their dream now is to give the young Africans a purpose for their life; instead of immigrating to Europe, they can work to make North Africa green and beautiful.

"Water is Life. The Quran even says: We created everything out of water. My method works everywhere where water is needed. It is not only about making rain. When the rain comes you also have to do something with it, you need water retention like I see it here in Tamera. What I am doing I can call Feng Shui of the sky. Feng Shui is about liberating energy blocks; what we do in our bodies or within houses we can also do with the planet: help the energy flow again. My work is based on the research of Wilhelm Reich who, through intuition and experiments, dissolved blocks in the weather in the 50's. How can we influence weather? Most scientists say that CO2 is the cause for climate change. This is wrong. It is radioactivity. Radium and Uranium belong underground. Why? Because they fall apart when they get in contact with life energy. But underground radioactivity starts a cycle of decay which we need for building topsoil and fertility.

In the Algerian desert there were 165 atomic tests overground by France. A big area is still very radioactive. What happens when a cloud full of life energy comes to such a dead land? Everything falls apart, decays, dies. The clouds also fall apart before they can rain. The molecules of the vapor H2O fall apart and form Ozone, O3, which is typical for deserts. From Wilhelm Reich I learned how to pull the O3 out with a Cloud Buster to free the oxygen. It will then connect with the Hydrogen, recreate water, reform into clouds, and produce rain. This is a very simplified explanation, only a summary of what I am doing. Please see more in my video "Greening the Desert", it works! With this method I have worked in Algeria, and also in other countries. I am just returning from a successful trip to Mongolia."

More: www.desert-greening.com



NADER AL-KHATEEB • PALESTINE

In the West Bank a special situation aggravates the problems caused by wrong water management: the Israeli occupation. Friends of the Earth Middle East is the only organization in which Palestinians, Israelis and Jordanians are working together in order to protect their shared environment. The Palestinian director and water engineer Nader Al-Khateeb and his colleagues started the first regional project of rehabilitation the Jordan River. Some numbers: The average flow from the Jordan River to the Dead Sea used to be of 1.3 billion cubic meters per year. In 1994 Israel began pumping more than 500 million cubic meters of water from the Sea of Galilee to the coastal area and the Negev desert.

Since then less than 2 % of the original amount flows in the Jordan River and most of it is sewage water. Nader Al-Khateeb described how close a right treatment of water and peace belong together.

"One of my major concerns under occupation is not the military, but the water. Very often we face water shortage. Farmers and cities in the West Bank have no direct access to the Jordan river or to water sources. Some years ago in the village Beit Jala people had to be supplied with drinking water by an ambulance. The water tanks had been damaged by the military. To save the Jordan river we ran a campaign to raise awareness. On one level, we put pressure on the Israeli municipalities in that area which led to the building of sewage treatment plants to stop the direct discharge of raw sewage. We also spoke to the three governments, Israel, Palestine and Jordan, trying to find ways to bring water back to the river. This can be achieved through improving and making reforms in the water management systems in the three countries. If this is done, 900 million cubic meters will be saved every year.

Through lobby work in the European Parliament we could make them demand the three governments to work together and solve the problem of the Jordan River. The European Union accepted to fund the first project ever to work for the rehabilitation of the Jordan River. Soon we will begin talk to certain companies to help us in conducting it."

More: www.foeme.org



GABRIELLA ZANZANAINI • BELGIUM

As Director of European Affairs for Food and Water Watch and one of the organizers of the Alternative World Water Forum, Gabriella Zanzanaini spoke on behalf of the global water justice movement.

"In July 2010 the UN assembly officially recognized the Human Right to Water and Sanitation - a big victory for the movement. The question is what do we want to do with this victory? How will we implement it?"

The global water justice movement fights against the privatization of water and of water services. It is surprising that privatized water is more common in Europe than in any other continent in the world. But over the past few years we've seen a big wave of water going back to public hands. Recent financial crises and austerity measures in Europe led to structural adjustment reforms similar to those in Latin America in the late 80's and 90's. The austerity measures brought about some amazing movements of mobilization and solidarity and good examples of creativity versus fighting against the current situation.

The EU uses the idea of water scarcity to push through any neoliberal policy they want. In the water framework directive, the solutions pushed against water scarcity are water markets and building big stagnant storage dams. In fact they could include Water Retention Landscapes as a solution, and so should do the Common Agricultural Policy. I want to help to make a link between Tamera and the anti-big-dam movement as well as the soil movement.

The global water movement has been built out of people and out of trust and has many amazing people in it. So everybody has to watch out cause we won't stop."

More: www.foodandwaterwatch.org



CATHERINE AUSTIN-FITTS • USA

How can alternative models be financed? As an experienced investment strategist and critical analyst of the global financial system, former Wall Street banker and former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the first Bush administration, Catherine Austin-Fitts gave an overview of what the financial world looks like today. Beyond that, she presented an alternative financial model which is adapted to life.

"The current financial model is destructive of wealth. Since all wealth comes from life and the centralized control of the current model destroys living systems, it is wealth destructing. We need to develop many models that are life giving and wealth creating. Here are the characteristics of new models versus those of the old model:

- Decentralized vs centralized.
- Respect for individual privacy vs legal double standards and highly invasive surveillance of finances (where data about money is worth more than money itself)
- Transparency of shared resources vs limited transparency of our financial ecosystem
- Place based system vs functionally based system
- Sound currency and multiple currencies vs fiat and centrally controlled currency
- Free markets under local jurisdiction vs centrally rigged markets. (We may talk about free markets but we have never experienced them.)

Equity and access to hoarded intelligence, knowledge and technology, which allows to make money from success, vs debt, which allows to make money from failure. (The amount of wealth of the old system is about 1% of the wealth that we could create if we could free controlled knowledge and technology.) Clean player as the hero vs Dirty player as the hero. (Media can play a major role in this change.)

There are many different ways to finance and prototype the new model. We can invest in enterprises, places and projects with gifts, donations, loans and investments. The integrity of our mechanism will depend largely on the excellence we provide in: Governance, Organization, Operations, Knowledge, Technology and Risk Management. Let's remember to take what is still useful from the old system, there is a lot. And let's start with ourselves, in our own financial ecosystem. The first step is to look at all the aspects of our financial life and look for opportunities to pull ourselves out of the old model and shift into the new model in a way that is building wealth for us."

More: <http://solari.com>



MINNI JAIN • GREAT BRITAIN

With her charity Earthlinks in the UK she helps create clean water systems as locally controlled initiatives. In Tamera she spoke about the necessity to bring back into our lives the spiritual essence of water so that it can quench much more than just our thirst.

"The care for regeneration, revitalization, retention and healthy flow of the water landscape reflects the need for regeneration, revitalization, retention and healthy flow of the human inner landscape.

Why is the obvious not visible to many of us?

Why do we not see that we are all part of unity?

Do you remember the last time you really looked at water?

Did you see the water in the glass you last drank from?

How often do you speak with the being of water?

We take water so much for granted, something so alive.

Is water a gift, a right, a resource, a commodity, a thing to be owned by a few?

OR, is water the source of life, an archetypal fluid that represents circularity, divinity, renewal?

Water is present in all religions, myths and traditions and they all place great emphasis on it as purifier. Purification and cleaning comes from the contact with the sacredness of water rather than with the mere substance. In this sense, water is connected with inner renewal and rebirth. The circular motion of the hydrological cycle brings to mind the continual movement of the primordial snake eating its tail. When water flow stops, the flow of life stops as well, or, in other words, the flow of water is the flow of life."

More: www.earthlinksall.com

GLOBAL CIRCLE

Every day we came together in a 'Global Circle', an opportunity to get in touch with the world's current situation. A circle of 300 people from all different places, with a central 'world stage', and an invitation to reveal oneself and the reality in which one lives and works, in particular crisis areas. Sabine Lichtenfels held the space. The audience was invited to listen with open and compassionate ears to stories from parts of the world that may not be as privileged as many of us are.



LUIS ROJAS MARTINEZ • BOLIVIA

Since 2006, Bolivia has been undergoing radical process of change. It was the first country ever to claim water as a human right. Luis Rojas Martinez, a representative of the foreign ministry, reminded us that before this happened water, energy and food were sometimes hard to access, especially for indigenous people. The shortage of these basic supplies has destroyed many families and communities.

"In Bolivia, a new paradigm was created as an alternative to capitalism: Buen Vivir. This paradigm encompasses harmony with nature and among people, cooperation with Pacha Mama and a balanced life. Bolivia does not want to cooperate with big corporations and governments in exploiting natural resources. This is why it is extremely important for us to get to know model places like Tamera, especially for their water management. With the program "My Water" we will provide 80% of the population with clean drinking water, reaching the millennial goal. The model of Tamera can help us to provide the rest of the people, 20% with water, too. This is why we are looking forward to cooperating with Tamera."

GIL PENHA-LOPES • PORTUGAL

As marine biologist and member of the working group "Climate Change", Gil Penha-Lopes from Lisbon raised the question: What can we do to reverse climate change? "There is a big call for transition models which support a real change. The European Union has started to support local initiatives. We have created a project which encompasses 15 European communities. Tamera is one of them - its Water Retention Landscape and its sense of community building." The European Union has given 6 million euros to support this project.

AFRICA



PATRICK DE BUCK • BELGIUM

Patrick De Buck, who has been working in West Africa since 1976, spoke about the situation in Gambia now, where men and women are trying to survive in an area of drought. In Gambia 700,000 people are starving, there is nothing to harvest and no grains stored, and they still have to face many more months before the next harvest season. This is the situation of the capitalistic world, where resources and money are the main focus rather than the human situation. Since he first went to Gambia, the situation has not gotten any better. He spoke of the inspiration he found in Tamera, realizing he wants to work for something, and not only against the power of violence. Through his work for food security he

has witnessed the survival of thousands of villages, and he named the importance of social sustainability for survival.



PHILIP MUNYASIA • KENYA

Raised in Northwestern Kenya in an extremely poor neighborhood of Kitale, he has dedicated his life to help his people and to change the situation of poverty, injustice and destruction of nature. With his organization OTEPIC he has taught more than 2.000 farmers, homeless people, women initiatives and youth groups in organic farming and permaculture to gain food autonomy on the small plots of land that they own. His vision is to create a School for Permaculture and Alternative Water Management in the frame of the Global Campus.

"Clean drinking water is a limited resource and a daily need. Families with no income have to buy drinking water from a Water Kiosk. If they cannot afford it they take it from the river, which is contaminated by sewage. We need to create systems free and fair for everyone. With the help of many people we could drill a borehole and build a water kiosk in one of our learning gardens. Now the community can get free drinking water. To solve the overall situation of desertification on a larger level we are very interested to bring the knowledge of the Water Retention Landscapes to Kenya."

More: www.organicfarminghealingtherift.blogspot.com, soon: www.otepic.org



GEOFF O'DONOGHUE • GREAT BRITAIN

Geoff O'Donoghue from CAFOD, a catholic charity working with local organizations around the world on issues related to poverty and injustice, spoke a beautiful and inspiring overview of the global situation as he sees it. He named the relationship between the water situation in Africa and the trauma of hunger. Part of the answer, he says, lies in the fact that at a profound level the current reality comes from "a broken relationship with ourselves, the divine and each other". From this root, our systems become distorted and there are great power imbalances resulting in many kinds of poverty and injustice – most noticeable being the injustices endured by women in our world. His job is to invest

in projects improving the lives of the world's impoverished, however he sees it is not enough to deal with these symptoms of a system unless our relationships are systematically founded on love rather than greed. He illustrated greed through the teaching of St Ambrose "if you have more than one coat you shouldn't ask yourself 'should I give one away', you should ask yourself whose coat you have." He said "We have wardrobes like dams" and it continues with "the second car, the second holiday, the second computer..." "We dam our wealth. Let it seep back into the human body as a single body. That is our task, being part of the solution, it is a change in relationship."



GEORGE WAMBUGU • KENYA

The water engineer from Nairobi/Kenya works with CAFOD and its partners all over East Africa. In his work he has seen many communities and places that could learn a lot from Tamera's approach of a Water Retention Landscape.

"On a recent trip to Tanzania, I found a project with large and expensive infrastructure for water, but no water flows through. The ground water table had sunken. Now they continue to drill deeper to extract it. They are even thinking of selling the ground water. They don't think of the next generation, the next generation shall take care of themselves. This way of thinking needs to change. Here in Tamera I have seen ideas and experiences that I want to bring there.

As water engineer in the whole region I see desertification and know that the next drought is always ahead. But still, the UN acts as if every drought were a surprise: every time it happens there is a huge appeal, big UN coordinated meetings around water and sanitation. There is a cycle of droughts, but each time it comes it is like a new crisis that makes them looking for quick solutions. We need to think and to act more in advance, to create sustainable and long-lasting solutions, and to restore the water cycle. That's why I have come here, and the example Tamera gives me hope."

ISRAEL/PALESTINE



BASEM ELMASRY • PALESTINE/GREAT BRITAIN

Basem Elmasry, founder of "Green Palestine" stated that he will do everything for a green Palestine. "For this I have to imagine a free Palestine, free from the Israeli occupation. Palestinians are like trees rooted in their land. We want to survive, to end occupation, and to live in a free, clean environment. The rivers of tears can build the power of change. Palestine will be free one day."

More: www.greenpalestine.org



AIDA SHIBLI • PALESTINE

The founding member of the Peace Research Village Middle East: "For 10 years I have put my intention to build spaces where we can create trust and peace. The PRV took the task to create a model for peace in Israel – Palestine. The governments create fear in both sides, in all sides. The question is how to create places where trust can live again and to recognize that we are the same divine being. If we can see paradise inside of us, we can also see it outside. In our present state, the PRV is not looking for land, we want to serve mother earth by creating healing landscapes in the Holy Land. Now we are working with the municipality of Jericho with the aim to build systems of alternative water management. How can we create a place where water can rest and has the time to infiltrate the soil? And how can we create a place where also we as people who have been taught to be enemies can rest and have time to build trust? Some of the Palestinian participants could not come because of the fear of "normalization". But separation does not help the situation! Water is the element of connection!

More: www.prvme.org

MEDIA



JOHN LIU • CHINA/USA

John Liu's work on documenting renaturation began in 1995 in the Loess plateau in China, the cradle of Chinese civilization where he found an absolutely degraded ecosystem, afflicted by a process of erosion that according to him is due to the same basic destructive paradigms that have over the ages led to the present ecological chaos in every single area of the planet. "We don't have to be confused about why we have floods or droughts or famine, it is all a natural outcome of the historical behaviors of human beings", he says.

However, what is interesting to him about the Loess plateau is the impressive work of restoration that's been being done there for the past decade. Since 1992 the Chinese have been analyzing in detail every single ecological aspect of the area, and applying integrated approaches to restoration on a scale large enough to not only increase productivity and income for individuals, which are strong motivations for local farmers to participate, but also to affect the hydrological cycle, the weather and the climate.

"There is just function and dysfunction, and the difference between them is that function is naturally regulatory, and dysfunction isn't", says John Liu. "The paradigm shift that has allowed the Chinese to move away from the direction towards ecosystem collapse economic development is leading to, was that ecological function is more valuable than production and consumption of goods and services. This is not reflected in our global economy at this time, we believe that wealth is determined by the total of production and consumption. This is something we just have to change. When functional ecosystems are the basis of money then all people's actions, all governments, all corporations, the intention of society and the intention of the economy is to ensure that there are functional ecosystem, and that is the pathway that leads to a sustainable future for humanity. Once you understand that functional ecosystems are vastly more valuable than production and consumption of goods and services, then it's possible to imagine all ecosystems being restored to nearly pristine conditions".

More: www.whatifwechange.org

WATER, ART AND TECHNOLOGY



FELIX HEDIGER • SWITZERLAND

Felix Hediger, artist and inventor from Germany, decided to approach water from an artistic perspective. He showed us in pictures his work, which is a combination of art and engineering, exploring and studying the phenomenology of water: Kinetic objects that move with water, instruments, models and experiments for water revitalization, pumps based on designs by Viktor Schaubergger that use rather than fight friction for the water movement, pumps that function with suction and others that simulate the mechanics of blood circulation and many applications but also works of art based on water vortices and on the geometry based on the Golden Ratio. He is now studying the question of pump-

ing water in Tamera.



BEN TYERS • GREAT BRITAIN

Ben Tyers, UK, artist and inventor on the track of Viktor Schaubergger, spoke of the water retention landscape as an invitation for the water to enter a deep cycle of transformation, temperature and emotion change- the "crystal path of going deep underground".

"All life is motion, all life is moving between extremes. We can witness this in our movement of thinking, the cycle of visualization, thought, expression, creation. We need to clear our channels of manifestation."



ROD EVERETT • GREAT BRITAIN

Rod Everett a permaculture specialist from Great Britain spoke of the importance of keeping water cool. Bring back the trees, recreate the wetlands, this will keep the water cool. When the water is warm it creates a rolling pattern, making the river flat and wide which deteriorates the banks of the river. Cool water moves in a vortex, creating a U shape, where the water circulates in deep and shallow zones and preserves the shape of the river.

DONATIONS AND INVESTMENTS

THE WATER RETENTION LANDSCAPE OF TAMERA IS A DEVELOPING MODEL FOR THE FUTURE AND ALREADY NOW AN EDUCATIONAL SITE TO TRAIN STUDENTS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD ABOUT AN ALTERNATIVE, DECENTRALIZED, AND SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT.

Like we saw it during the Water Symposium, this knowledge is needed everywhere. In August and September 2012, several more retention spaces shall be built to make the Water Retention Landscape more complete before the rainy season comes. For this work we are looking for donations and investors. We ask you: Invest in a future worth living! Invest in a blue planet!

Donations for the Water Retention Landscape and the Global Campus are received and distributed by the GRACE Foundation.

In the name of a healthy planet for all generations to come. Thank you.

Please ask for further details:

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Please donate to:

GRACE – Stiftung zur Humanisierung des Geldes • 8037 Zürich, Raiffeisenbank Zürich
Account No.: 92188.69 • IBAN: CH988148700009218869
BIC: RAIFCH22 • Clearing 81487 • (PC-Account: 87-71996-7)



Charly Rainer Ehrenpreis
www.the-grace-foundation.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Bernd Müller: **The Secret of Water as a Basis for the new Earth.** Healing the Water Cycle through the Creation of Water Retention Landscapes

Free download: http://www.verlag-meiga.org/sites/verlag-meiga.org/files/Water_engl.pdf

"Water is Life – The Water Retention Landscape of Tamera"

12 min. video of Leila Dregger and Ludwig Schramm

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hF2QL0D5ww



Madjid Abdellaziz and Sepp Holzer during the guided tour in the Water Retention Landscape



Jürgen Kleinwächter presenting thoughts about water, light and energy



Encounters and talks



Benjamin von Mendelssohn, Mena Viera and Rajendra Singh at the Stone Circle



Global Circle



Catherine Austin-Fitts speaks about the dynamics of money



Alfredo Cunhal, organic farmer of the Alentejo, and Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of Tamera, sharing perspectives for agriculture



Benjamin von Mendelssohn and Juliette Baigler, the moderators of the Water Symposium



The audience



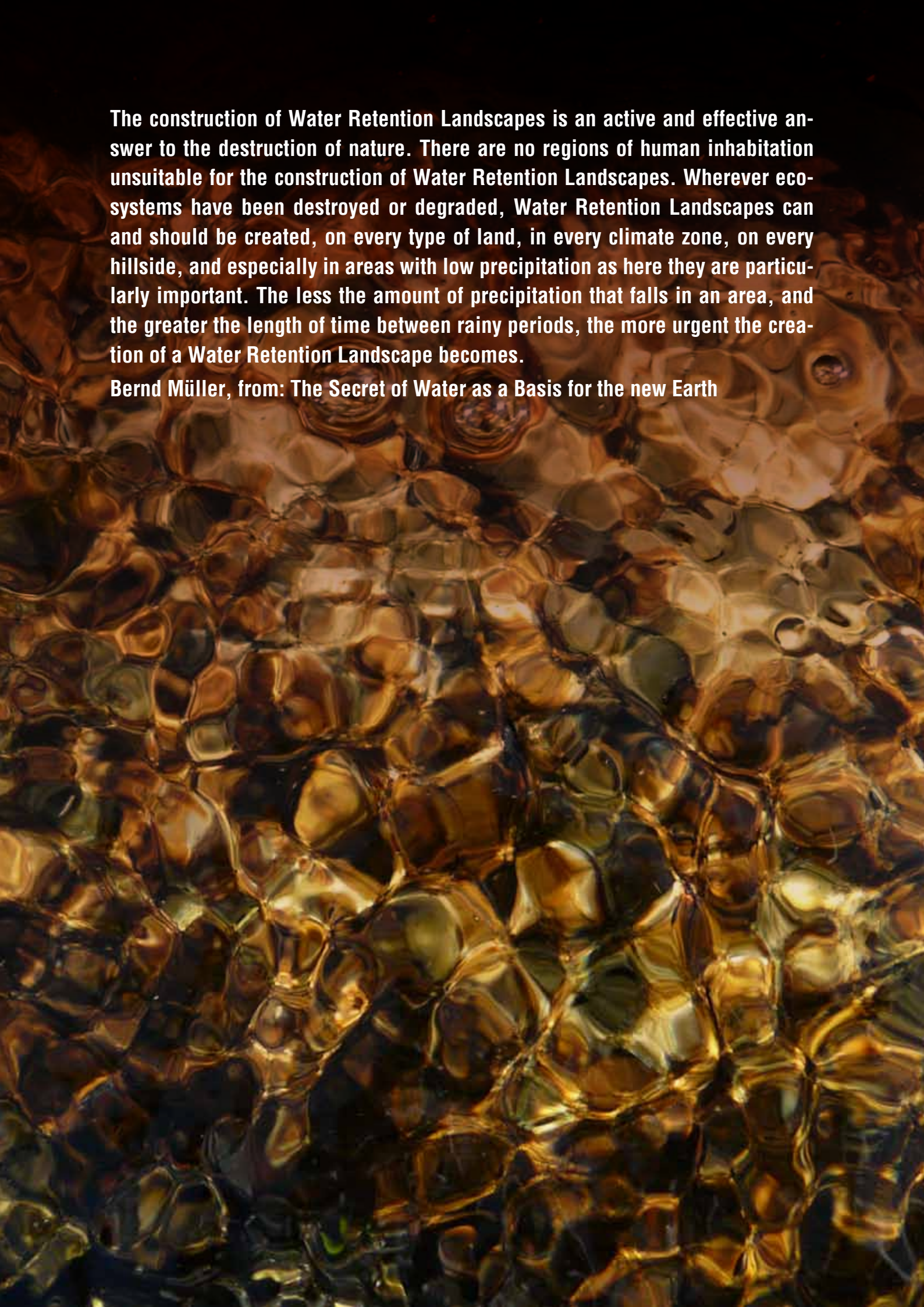
Bernd Müller and Sabine Lichtenfels during the opening ritual of the Symposium



Martin Winiecki and Monika Berghoff, the initiators of the Water Symposium



Music from the band "Maldita Canções" / Sintra



The construction of Water Retention Landscapes is an active and effective answer to the destruction of nature. There are no regions of human inhabitation unsuitable for the construction of Water Retention Landscapes. Wherever ecosystems have been destroyed or degraded, Water Retention Landscapes can and should be created, on every type of land, in every climate zone, on every hillside, and especially in areas with low precipitation as here they are particularly important. The less the amount of precipitation that falls in an area, and the greater the length of time between rainy periods, the more urgent the creation of a Water Retention Landscape becomes.

Bernd Müller, from: The Secret of Water as a Basis for the new Earth