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# **Sixth International Water Symposium in Tamera, 2016**

**report by Helena Laughton  
(for the Global Ecology Institute)**



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Tamera hosted its sixth Water Symposium in May 2016, gathering dedicated water practitioners from the local region as well as well-known activists from around the globe.

The symposium aimed at strengthening mutual understanding and solidarity between three proponents of the so-called 'new water paradigm': Michal Kravčík, Slovakian hydrologist, Rajendra Singh, the 'Waterman of India', and Bernd Walter Müller, Tamera's water specialist. Also present were members of Tamera's ecology team and representatives of GEN (the Global Ecovillage Network).

The importance of a new approach to water, and especially the restoration of the climate through renewing small water cycles, is still little known. Richard Widows, an agricultural scientist present at the symposium, said, "Water is the missing link in the climate debate".

Kravčík explained the radical potential of his work, "It is not a question of how to store and hoard water; it is a question of bringing the rain back." In 2008, he elucidated his understanding of water in the book 'Water for the Recovery of the Climate: A New Water Paradigm', from which was written, in collaboration with Jan Lambert, a paper called 'A Global Action Plan for the Restoration of Natural Water Cycles and Climate'<sup>1</sup>. His discoveries and conclusions are entirely consistent with Singh's successes in Rajasthan and with Tamera's work on water.



The symposium focused on envisioning a united international movement for holistic and regenerative water management. Although there are many successful regenerative projects around the world, mainstream policy makers are often completely unaware of them. The question is how to raise awareness and unite individuals from around the world into a joint movement.

One possibility is a water campaign over the next two years, raising awareness through multimedia, public events and model projects. This will include the launch of a new joint declaration on climate restoration, based on Kravčík's 'Global Action Plan'. It will be signed by all three water specialists, and used as a focus to unite a growing movement.

Southern Alentejo was proposed as a site for a model watershed-wide regeneration project. A diverse group is keen to envision a 'water walk' in autumn 2016, to listen not only to local elders and carriers of environmental knowledge, but also to the land itself. The idea is supported by Duarte Sobral, land use planner, and André Vizinho, environmental researcher and permaculturalist. The São Luiz Transition Town movement was represented at the meeting by local activists Sergio and Carmen Maraschin.

Singh brought into the circle his longing to act in response to the Syrian crisis. He is planning to visit Syria on October the 2nd, International Day of Non-Violence. He wants to show his "love and respect" for the Syrian people, and raise awareness of the role of water in their crisis. This event could be linked to the second Walking Water pilgrimage in California and the water walk in Southern Alentejo.

The symposium is over, but the movement for regenerative water management has only just started.



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are freely available for all humankind,  
when we no longer follow the laws of capital,  
but rather the logic of nature.”*

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