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****For Immediate Release****

**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)

Colos, Portugal, May 7th: We have good news: The Tamera Water Retention Landscape - a model for reversing desertification worldwide, led by Bernd Mueller and others has been selected as a Finalist in the 2012 Buckminster Fuller Challenge, the prestigious annual design science competition named "Socially-Responsible Design's Highest Award" by Metropolis Magazine. The Challenge awards \$100,000 to support the development and implementation of a whole systems-based solution that has significant potential to solve humanity's most pressing problems.

About the project: Since 2007, the ecology team of the Tamera Peace Research Center in Southern Portugal has been building a water retention landscape, probably the largest community based decentralized system for alternative and sustainable water management. The idea and instructions were given by the ecological visionary and Austrian mountain farmer Sepp Holzer. The Water Retention Landscape is an answer on climate change and globalization, a model for restoration of damaged ecosystems and disaster prevention. It is a basis for reforestation, agriculture and aquaculture, especially in regions threatened by desertification, and is an integral part of a comprehensive model for sustainability in water, food, energy and social structures.

Bernd Mueller, director of the ecological department in Tamera:

"To receive the Buckminster Fuller Challenge prize would be an appreciation of our specific work here in Tamera; but it is much more an honor and appreciation of nature's healing capacity, and a step towards the goal that humanity changes its course of destruction and cooperates again with the amazing powers of nature."

Maude Barlow: author and renowned world water activist: *"I am most interested in this work and consider these teachings to be crucial to the survival of the planet."*

Present state of the project: Since entering the Challenge in October 2011, another large retention space has been built, the "Big South Lake" which will be able to restore the hydrological water balance in a whole valley once it will be filled. At its shores extended terraces were created for the cultivation and organic agriculture.



After a dry winter with little rainfall we can clearly see the positive effect that occur when the rainwater is retained and stored in the earth body. While in the broader region it has become already very dry and forests are burning, in Tamera wildlife and birds looking for water come and fill the water retention landscape with life. Presently a team of artists and technologists is working on the development of a "ring duct": an innovative system for sustainable fresh water supply basing on the knowledge of Sepp Holzer and Viktor Schaubergger.

From 26 - 29 of April, Tamera hosted the [2nd International Water Symposium](#) with experts and decision makers from many countries. Most of them were surprised how holistic the model of the Tamera Water Retention Landscape is and how many aspects it encompasses: landscape healing, food and energy production, economical autonomy, and community building.

Becoming Finalist: After a rigorous vetting process by the Buckminster Fuller Institute's multi-disciplinary review team, which included an in-depth interview, followed by a review by a distinguished [jury](#), the Tamera Water Retention Landscape was chosen from a pool of 122 of entries from around the world, to be one of only four Finalists this year. It is featured in BFI's Idea Index and the Buckminster Fuller Challenge Website. Two remaining finalists and two honorable mentions will be chosen and announced at the end of May. On Wednesday, June 6th the Winner will be revealed at an award ceremony at Cooper Union in New York City. More information on the day of events to come. Save the date and RSVP [here!](#)

The Buckminster Fuller Challenge is the premier global competition recognizing initiatives that take a comprehensive, anticipatory, design approach to radically advance human well being and the health of our planet's ecosystems. The 2012 Finalists are providing visionary, workable solutions to some of the world's most significant challenges. The Challenge is a program of [The Buckminster Fuller Institute](#) which aims to deeply influence the ascendance of a new generation of design-science pioneers who are leading the creation of an abundant world economy that benefits all humanity.

Important addition: In this year we want to invest 440.000 Euros to build more retention spaces and to complete the Tamera model including its development to a training and education site for students and projects from many parts of the world. Please support this important development. Every donation is welcome as well as any information that can help us to get fundings. [Donate here](#)

Sincerely,
Monika Berghoff and Leila Dregger

More information:

www.tamera.org

Video (12 Min) "Water is Life" about the Water Retention Landscape by Ludwig Schramm and Leila Dregger: [english](#) [deutsch](#) [español](#) [portugues](#)

Article by Bernd Walter Mueller, head of the ecology departement of Tamea
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