

Code Red Water: Two Global Perspectives - with Atossa Soltani and Michal Kravčik

A Nature's Solutions as National Policy mini-conference from Biodiversity for a Livable Climate - March 19, 2022

Conference page (with video recording)

<https://bio4climate.org/national-solutions-as-national-policy-code-red-water/>

Michal Kravčik's presentation slides

https://www.waterholistic.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/BOSTON_MARCH_KRAVCIK_2022.pdf

Brief feedback survey on the event

<https://forms.gle/VoMqqkKa9HCickdy5>

Resources

Upcoming event - Introducing the EcoRestoration Alliance - March 28, 2022 at 6pm ET

<https://forum-network.org/lectures/introducing-ecorestoration-alliance/>

Bio4Climate research compendium

<https://bio4climate.org/compendium/>

... and a comprehensive list of compendium articles on water

<https://bio4climate.org/?s=water&compendium-only=on>

Voices of Water for Climate <https://bio4climate.org/voices-of-water/>

Michal Kravčik's New Water Paradigm PDF

http://www.waterparadigm.org/download/Water_for_the_Recovery_of_the_Climate_A_New_Water_Paradigm.pdf

Amazon Sacred Headwaters Initiative, directed by Atossa Soltani

<https://sacredheadwaters.org/>

... and their Bioregional Plan 2030

https://cuencasagradas.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ENG_PLAN-BIOREGIONAL_10_2021.pdf

Short (9 min) video shared by Atossa on the future vision for economic transition in the Amazon - Amazonia 2041: A vision from the Future

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiJLqcIV7kE>

Call to action shared by Atossa - sign the declaration for the permanent protection of 80 percent of the amazon by 2025

<https://amazonia80x2025.earth/>

Short animated video on the water paradigm shown in Atossa's presentation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8B4tST8ti8>

Science panel on the Amazon shared by Atossa

<https://www.theamazonwewant.org/>

... and their full 2021 Assessment Report

<https://www.theamazonwewant.org/amazon-assessment-report-2021/>

Trailer to film on the 'Rivers Above the Canopy' created by the Amazon River's moisture (film by Pascale Cuissot to be broadcast soon on ARTE television)

<https://www.zed.fr/en/tv/distribution/catalogue/programme/rivers-above-the-canopy?media=3413>

Explainer on bioprecipitation and the relationship between life and rain cycles

<https://soilcarboncoalition.org/bioprecipitation/>

Recent article by Zuzka Mulkerin on Michal Kravčik's work published on the UN Decade on Restoration website "Every Drop Counts: How a Restoration Initiative in Slovakia Brought Back Water, Revived Soils"

<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/stories/every-drop-counts-how-restoration-initiative-slovakia-brought-back-water-revived-soils>

Brief 2-min video on Slovakian water restoration by Michal

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1exvhUjAoV4zHo6HZoqRJI6ixhOPNF5nt/view>

Article - "Amazon deforestation: Record high destruction of trees in January" – BBC News

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2022/02/12/amazon-deforestation-record-high-destruction-of-trees-in-january-bbc-news/>

Article "The Scramble for the Amazon and the "Lost Paradise" of Euclides da Cunha" – Susanna B. Hecht

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2021/07/03/full-show-amazons-carbon-footprint-in-created-during-pandemic/>

Article “The Climate System Tipping Points Race: Risk of Amazon Rainforest Collapse Takes the Lead”

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2021/03/29/the-climate-system-tipping-points-race-risk-of-amazon-rainforest-collapse-takes-the-lead/>

UN Environmental Program brief - Working with plants, soils and water to cool the climate and rehydrate Earth’s landscapes based on Michal Kravčík’s work

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/36619/FB025.pdf>

Blog from People and Water, the nonprofit organization that Michal chairs

<https://peopleandwater.international/blogs/>

Water Holistic LLT, working to quantify the benefits of retaining rainwater based on Michal’s work

<https://www.waterholistic.com/>

... and their writeup on the Green Restoration Program for Kosice Region of Slovakia

<https://www.waterholistic.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/KSK-EN.pdf>

Video - Michal Kravčík: The New Water Reality (with captions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-uVE9IPD4s&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=61>

Video - Michal Kravčík: 1999 Goldman Prize winner, Slovakia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-uVE9IPD4s&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=61>

Water Stories, an organization for learning, training, and action on Water Cycle Restoration

<https://www.waterstories.com/>

Series of videos from Tim Weiskel on Local & 'Transboundary' Water Stress on the 'Blue Planet'

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ>

... including one on the pricing of water and ‘The Setting’ of this topic of planetary water stress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtF8B01in8E&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=6>

... and one on ‘The Choice’

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30dSS4GHLFo&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=7>

Online platform for climate challenges facing Boston, MA

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/02/16/climate-boston-the-youtube-channel-of-climate-boston-net/>

Piece on the work of Herman Daly on “economics for a full world” – The Law & The Profits vs. Natural Law & The Prophet: Herman Daly & the Future of the Human Prospect
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2021/11/24/the-law-and-the-profits-vs-natural-law-and-the-prophet-herman-daly-and-the-future-of-the-human-prospect/>

Piece on commoning from Commons Network
<https://www.commonsnetwork.org/news/what-is-commoning-and-why-is-it-so-important/>

Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard
<https://suzannesimard.com/finding-the-mother-tree-book/>

Water in Plain Sight by Judith D. Schwartz
<https://www.judithschwartz.com/water-in-plain-sight>

Tim Weiskel's Weblog on Transition Studies - Exploring Transitions to a Just and Sustainable Future on a Finite Planet
<http://transition-studies.net>

California Sierra club agriculture committee
<https://www.sierraclub.org/california/cnrcc/agriculture-committee>

Conference Chat

10:03:09 From Maiyim Baron to Everyone:

Hello Friends - so nice to see to see so many people I know, especially people from Jim Laurie's classes

10:06:00 From anamarija.frankic to Everyone:

Thank you, my students from the Univ of Zadar are coming to the webinar.

10:23:45 From Robert Turner to Everyone:

The animation had at least three boxes of parameters that are being largely ignored in the concern with CO2. The first was water, the second looked like dams. What were the others mentioned besides the water cycle? I am also interested in the effects of large-scale hydroelectric projects.

10:25:28 From robertlabaree to Everyone:

How are temperate rainforests like the one in the upper northwest of the US the same or different from the equatorial rainforests you are describing in the Amazon?

10:25:49 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Other resources of use related to Atossa's presentation include:

Amazon deforestation: Record high destruction of trees in January – BBC News
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2022/02/12/amazon-deforestation-record-high-destruction-of-trees-in-january-bbc-news/>

The Scramble for the Amazon and the “Lost Paradise” of Euclides da Cunha: Susanna B. Hecht
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2021/07/03/full-show-amazons-carbon-footprint-increased-during-pandemic/>

The Climate System Tipping Points Race: Risk of Amazon Rainforest Collapse Takes the Lead
<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2021/03/29/the-climate-system-tipping-points-race-risk-of-amazon-rainforest-collapse-takes-the-lead/>

The problems she has outlined are accentuated by the current Brazilian's administration's policies – as she has emphasized.

10:34:29 From Zac to Everyone:

Wonderfully said Atossa!!! How can we connect more with your work?

10:35:34 From Atossa Soltani to Everyone:

You can learn more about the Amazon Sacred Headwaters and read the bioregional plan 2030 here <https://sacredheadwaters.org/>

10:36:35 From Gillian Barker to Everyone:

That was a beautifully clear and rich presentation, thank you so much.

10:36:49 From Atossa Soltani to Everyone:

Also see this 9 min video about our future vision for economic transition Amazonia 2041: A vision from the Future <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wiJLqcIV7kE>

10:36:59 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Atossa, as you know anthropologists have made this case for decades, and this is a very powerful statement summarizing their important studies and findings over the decades.

Thank you very much for this great presentation....!

Other related discussions of the accelerating local and global water crises include: Local & 'Transboundary' Water Stress on the 'Blue Planet'
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ>

10:37:42 From Atossa Soltani to Everyone:

Also the science panel for the amazon's report <https://www.theamazonwewant.org/>

10:37:49 From anamarija.frankic to Everyone:

Thank you Atossa, you are amazing. I was lucky to visit Amazon in Iquitos, Peru and Brazil all the way to her delta. And most and the best of my learning while studying there was from all the indigenous people. Thank you.

10:38:58 From Atossa Soltani to Everyone:

Also sign the declaration for the permanent protection of 80 percent of the amazon by 2025. <https://amazonia80x2025.earth/>

10:59:29 From Zuzka Mulkerin to Everyone:

People and Water resources

New Water Paradigm book

<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Water-for-the-recovery-of-the-climate%3A-a-new-water-Krav%C3%ADk-Pokorn%C3%AD/87e490a0307711fe869d8c545be6058636e97643>

Michal Kravčik's work @ UN environmental program Foresight:

<https://www.unep.org/resources/emerging-issues/working-plants-soils-and-water-cool-climate-and-rehydrate-earths>

Michal Kravčik's work UN Decade of Restoration:

<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/stories/every-drop-counts-how-restoration-initiative-slovakia-brought-back-water-revived-soils>

People and Water web:

<https://peopleandwater.international/blogs/>

WaterHolistic LLt. Web:

<https://www.waterholistic.com>

11:02:02 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Other key links to Michal's work include: Michal Kravcik: The New Water Reality (with captions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-uVE9IPD4s&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=61>

and

Michal Kravcik: 1999 Goldman Prize winner, Slovakia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g-uVE9IPD4s&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=61>

11:07:24 From Maya Dutta (Bio4Climate) to Everyone:

Here's the New Water Paradigm document link, which Zuzka has shared as well:
[http://www.waterparadigm.org/download/Water for the Recovery of the Climate A New Water Paradigm.pdf](http://www.waterparadigm.org/download/Water_for_the_Recovery_of_the_Climate_A_New_Water_Paradigm.pdf)

11:12:32 From deborahlakefortson to Everyone:

What can Michal tell us about how he managed to get groups to respond to these ideas and initiate actions that worked?

11:13:08 From marybeth to Everyone:

Downstream irrigation farmers impact?

11:14:13 From Zac to Everyone:

Here is an online community focused on answering the question Atossa just asked
<https://www.waterstories.com/>

11:15:00 From Maya Dutta (Bio4Climate) to Everyone:

Thank you to both speakers. Would you share more about your experiences working with Indigenous and/or local communities to implement nature-based solutions? How might corporate money (which now is increasingly available for climate solutions) be channeled into communities themselves for such stewardship, rather than used as a means of control and ownership that displaces communities and centralizes power far from the land and water itself and physical/spiritual/social connections to it?

11:16:29 From Zuzka Mulkerin to Everyone:

More resources to Michal's work from Jan Lambert:
<https://bio4climate.org/voices-of-water/>

11:20:26 From Glenn Gall to Everyone:

Excess CO2 is a trillion ton opportunity for more life -- biomass, soil,

11:22:02 From Maya Dutta (Bio4Climate) to Everyone:

I love the idea of looking at our many challenges as possible opportunities when handled appropriately. I'm wondering - how does the warming, rising, and more energy-intense ocean fit into this picture of our natural water infrastructure on the lands (in our soil and our riverways)? Is it possible that as more moisture is released in storms from our oceans (even high intensity ones), we could harness that and start retaining more of it?

11:23:10 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Local & 'Transboundary' Water Stress on the 'Blue Planet'
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ>

11:23:36 From Paul McCullough to Everyone:

Thanks, both speakers were excellent! I've attended lots of webinars during COVID and this one is the best! Thanks again.

11:24:07 From Philip Bogdonoff to Everyone:

Michal, Atossa -- can you explain how restoration of water cycles can help address the melting ice in the Arctic and Antarctic?

11:26:36 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

In addition to re-focusing upon local water solutions, we need as well, to keep an eye on the global economic logic of the financial sector. Maude Barlow has emphasized this for decades, and the warnings are becoming more urgent.....

As Atossa says if we manage for water we manage for life.... but "decision makers" don't care about this because they are driven by illusions of continuous growth -- driven by the financialization of water.

YES, the money system is out of balance... See:

"If you do not change direction, you will most likely end up where you are headed" Pt. 1
The Setting

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtF8B01in8E&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=5>

"If you do not change direction, you will most likely end up where you are headed...." Pt
2 The Choice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30dSS4GHLFo&list=PLr2L6TB8fh8FbHI9ybFGdinMCoJGV31dZ&index=6>

11:29:13 From Ron Whitehurst to Everyone:

This reminds me of Bucky Fuller's world game. Michal is the Bucky for our era...

11:31:23 From anamarija.frankic to Everyone:

Yes, great comparison with Mr. Fuller and his wisdom.

11:31:51 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

It is too late for that... I am afraid. They can only happen in geologic time... this is sad to say, but any measures begun now will not have an impact until well after the large majority of our global coastal cities will be underwater...

11:34:25 From marybeth to Everyone:

To sell this idea, we must sell it to the agricultural community. They own water rights. Is this question addressed in the book?

11:35:57 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Anamarija teaches in Boston.... But Boston will soon (in geologic terms) be under water precisely because we have not paid attention to the global water issues for hundreds of years.

See: Climate Boston – YouTube Channel of Climate-Boston.Net - <https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2018/02/16/climate-boston-the-youtube-channel-of-climate-boston-net/>

11:42:07 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Big difference in Northern forests from Tropical forests is this: most of the carbon storage in northern forests is in the soil. Most of the carbon in the tropical systems is NOT in the soils. It is in the above ground carbon -- that is the standing biomass.

This has an enormous impact on the difference on the treatment of tropical forests vs northern forests. If you deforest the tropical forests there is NOT a thick and carbon-rich soil that can regenerate the forests. In the north, the "bank" of carbon is in the soils and they can recover.

The result is that once tropical forests are destroyed, they do not recover with as much resilience.

11:43:31 From Herb Simmens to Everyone:

I'm more than convinced. So what's the plan to scale this up fast enough and wide enough to stabilize the climate in time to avoid ecological and civilizational collapse?

11:43:42 From Tricia Tice to Everyone:

Stop eating beef before any more trees are sacrificed in the Amazon. Become vegan. Eat plant-based burgers.

11:46:33 From Paul McCullough to Everyone:

Use biochar. Check out Terra Preta soils in the Amazon https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_preta

11:47:29 From robertlabaree to Everyone:

Eating beef from cattle raised in the natural relation with soil—eat, move on, poop—actually supports a deeper, more carbon and water-absorptive soil...see Alan Savory, Walter Jehne...

11:47:41 From Deborah Chielli to Everyone:

Thank you All! It is a gift to be here with such exemplary leaders. I am not a scientist, but a nurse practitioner who educates my patients about the connection between our lifestyle (meat-based diet especially) and diseases (hypertension, high cholesterol) and helping my patients connect to the fact that "it's all connected" with our planet and our health. As a health provider certified in lifestyle as medicine, I also teach my patients to eat whole-food plant-strong for the planet. I wonder if there might be more opportunities to network and create synergy between lifestyle medicine health professionals around the world and amazing orgs like this. The science tells us that unless we change our diets, we cannot save the rainforest nor the planet. And beautifully, just as the hydro projects highlighted today can be acted on at the

individual and community level (in addition to national and international), changing our diet to a plant-based diet can be accomplished by individuals and make a difference.

11:48:03 From nancy to Everyone:

This is an example of "economics" vs ecology

11:48:53 From Herb Simmens to Everyone:

I agree, Paul. I recommend reading *Burn* by Albert Bates and Kathryn Draper - a plan to create a biochars based economy

11:51:45 From Ron Whitehurst to Everyone:

@Deborah Health practitioners like you sure do need to be teaching one on one and even out in the public explaining all the reasons for 'plant-forward' eating.

11:52:28 From zinzi to Everyone:

This is catastrophe theory in mathematics

11:53:12 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Well put Atossa,

The "water" team has to re-think and re-present its message to JOIN WITH the re-formed ecologically informed economists like Herman Daly.

See for example,

The Law & The Profits vs. Natural Law & The Prophet: Herman Daly & the Future of the Human Prospect

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2021/11/24/the-law-and-the-profits-vs-natural-law-and-the-prophet-herman-daly-and-the-future-of-the-human-prospect/>

11:58:43 From Deborah Chielli to Everyone:

Thank you, around the world LM practitioners are advocating for these health connections and solutions and now starting to connect to climate and planet. The American College of Lifestyle Medicine is codifying the connection between diet and health for health practitioners, and now more and more content is being developed around the imperative to connect to climate also. Dr McDougall is standing up much on this amongst the lifestyle and plant-based community <https://www.mcdougallfoundation.org> and Dr David Katz at Yale did a powerful presentation on diet and climate change at the 2021 conference. I hope we can all connect more of these threads so that individuals see this power on their plates. Thank you for all you are doing! I have learned so much about water today, my eyes are opened and my whole understanding has shifted. Thank you all

11:59:54 From Maiyim Baron to Everyone:

Thanks for a great session! So much here, I will have to go over slides etc when you send out. Thank you to Atossa and Michal - and all! Bio4climate does great work!

11:59:58 From Atossa Soltani to Everyone:

Here's the book that has inspired me around alternatives to commodification to nature, making the commons more visible and implicit in our public policies

<https://www.commonsnetwork.org/news/what-is-commoning-and-why-is-it-so-important/>

12:00:55 From Maya Dutta (Bio4Climate) to Everyone:

Thank you so much for your insights, Atossa and Michal. Thank you to everyone who has joined and contributed thoughts and links in the chat. Please send us your feedback on the event with this brief survey: <https://forms.gle/VoMqgkKa9HCickdy5>

12:00:57 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Governments are not autonomous actors. They are "influenced" (ie. bought) by corporations. This is why we can not get free from fossil fuels. The policy-makers are, in effect, the "agents" of corporations who have bought them.

To "gang up on the bureaucrats" is a bit naive. We need to look at the mythology of corporations themselves, which is based fundamentally in the mythology of the Western World since 1492 -- the myth of "continuous growth on a finite planet.

Overcoming the Multiple Legacies of European Colonialism: Can The West Survive Its Most Cherished Historical Myths?

<https://environmentaljusticetv.wordpress.com/2019/09/09/part-1-overcoming-the-multiple-legacies-of-european-colonialism-can-the-west-survive-its-most-cherished-historical-myths/>

12:01:09 From Ann Barrett to Everyone:

If people can bring the water cycles into balance, hopefully the market for water will collapse.

12:01:36 From Atossa Soltani to Everyone:

Mother Tree network and book by Suzanne Simard

<https://suzannesimard.com/finding-the-mother-tree-book/>

12:02:49 From Maya Dutta (Bio4Climate) to Everyone:

The EcoRestoration Alliance that Michal has mentioned will be joining Bio4Climate's speaker series on March 28th —

<https://forum-network.org/lectures/introducing-ecore Restoration-alliance/>

12:03:04 From Ron Whitehurst to Everyone:

Thank you to all who care so much about the work for a healthy ecosystem and especially Michal—your optimistic and huge heart ceaselessly trying to inspire others in a global earth care community.

12:05:28 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Great session! We look forward to the video + the slides of Michal + Atossa + the transcript of the "chat." + the links to your forthcoming Biodiversity4Climate events....

Good job, well done! Keep in touch <http://transition-studies.net>

12:06:17 From Tim Weiskel to Everyone:

Water is being privatized because it is enormously profitable to do so..... That is the problem...

12:06:50 From Jon Schull to Everyone:

Ecorestorationalliance.net

12:08:49 From Ron Whitehurst to Everyone:

For those of you in CA please join us in the Sierra club ag committee
<https://www.sierraclub.org/california/cnrcc/agriculture-committee>

12:08:52 From Maya Dutta (Bio4Climate) to Everyone:

Thank you all again. Find the recording of this webinar (once processed), along with chat and resources, more information on these topics, further events and more on our website:

<https://bio4climate.org/>