

PROFILE

Michal Kravcik

The *New Water Paradigm* turns climate change strategy the right way up. As Michal Kravcik argues, the old water paradigm sluiced water out of sealed cities and drained rural soils - it broke the hydrological cycle. The task now is to retain as much rainwater as possible within ecosystems and in cities, so that it can permeate soil, replenish groundwater, and rise into the atmosphere to regulate temperatures.

In the 90s, Kravcik saw the Slovak state advancing an ecologically questionable and economically inefficient water policy. With his organisation *People and Water*, founded in 1993, and with support of the *Slovak River Network* and *Slovak Union of Conservationists*, he developed *Water for the Third Millennium*, an alternative integrated water management scheme. The program reforms water management institutions by the principle of subsidiarity and the idea of decentralized economic power and ownership; thus *People and Water* is part of a larger effort for sustainable village and regional development. For example, in the Upper Torysa, the organisation has implemented projects such as a family farm, a biological wastewater treatment plant, small hydropower schemes, and a small fish farm. With the money from his Goldman Environmental Prize (1999), Kravcik endowed the *Blue Torysa Foundation* in the 25 villages of a region in Eastern Slovakia. The foundation encourages local action to improve the quality of life of communities, save cultural heritage, make health and environmental improvements. The foundation also supports the development of civic democracy and broadens ethnic tolerance. To this end, it runs six basic grant programs.

The living world influences the climate mainly by regulating the water cycle and the huge energy flows linked to it. Transpiring plants, especially forests, work as a kind of biotic pump, causing humid air to be sucked out of the ocean and transferred to dry land. Area drainage, caused by deforestation, agricultural activity or canalized rain water in cities, means a reduction of evaporation, the conversion of sunlight to latent heat and hence a reduced local cooling effect of water. Dry soil and sealed surfaces increase the local temperature and reduce precipitation over the affected area. This process also destroys the natural sequestration of carbon in the soil, leading to carbon loss. Just as removing vegetation from an ecosystem dries out the soil, so removing water from an ecosystem means reduced vegetation. Taken together, these two processes are hastening desertification of the planet and intensifying global warming.

Michal Kravcik's work is recognised internationally through grants and fellowships; and has attracted media interest in Japan, USA, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Canada, UK, Sweden, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Kazakhstan, Estonia, France, and Poland. As he points out, in both global North and South, industry and agriculture each benefit as forests and wetlands are restored, as cities are ringed with green, and as ecologically sound local employment is created.

Even if we reverse greenhouse gas emissions, Kravcik says, this will not stop climate change unless we change how we manage water.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Michal Kravcik

Birth and Citizenship: 3 February 1956, Slovak Republic
Address: 24 Čermelska Road, 040 01 Košice, Slovakia
Tel: + 421.905.482.099
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DEGREES AND AWARDS

1999 Goldman Environmental Prize: (www.goldmanprize.org)

1991 PhD 'A Mathematical Model for the Hydrological Regime of a River Basin'
Water Management, Civil Engineering Faculty,
Slovak Technical University, Bratislava

1980 Dipl. Ing. Engineering Degree
Water Management, Civil Engineering Faculty,
Slovak Technical University, Bratislava

EMPLOYMENT

2011-2012, Project manager for Program landscape restoration and River basin
management and Landscape on Slovak Government office, Bratislava
1993-2010 Chair, People and Water NGO, Kosice
1989-92 AGROCONS, Consulting Company, Košice
1988-89 Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Science, Košice
1981-86 Institute of Hydrology and Hydraulics,
Slovak Academy of Science, Bratislava

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

1999 Grant from the US Embassy in Slovakia to study civil society in the USA:
Washington, Oklahoma City, Sacramento, Columbus, San Francisco, San Diego

1995-98 Ashoka Fellowship
to develop the Blue Alternative for management of water resources in Slovakia

1995 River Fellowship sponsored by the German Marshall Foundation
to study NGO research and public participation in water projects:
Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Washington, Harrisburg, Arlington, Boston, Detroit

1994 elected to the Ashoka Fellowship for Leadership in Social Entrepreneurship
and Public Welfare: (www.ashoka.org), Arlington, USA

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Michal Kravčík, Juraj Kohutiar, Michal Gažovič at al. "After us the desert and the Deluge?",
June 2012, 232 pages, Slovak-English language

Michal Kravčík, Juraj Kohutiar, Martin Kováč, Pavol Varga, Michal Pjecha, Ján Hronský, Peter Straka, Monika Oravcová, Dana Kravčíková. (2010)
Water without Borders: Towards Regional Climate Stability.
Kosice: Typopress, 231 pages (Slovak): ISBN: 978-80-89089-96-3

Michal Kravčík, Juraj Kohutiar, Martin Kováč, et al. (2008)
Between Floods and Droughts: Manual for Integrated Water Resource Management.
Poprad: Manira, 101 pages (Slovak): ISBN: 978-80-970051-8-4
(www.ludiaavoda.sk/?page_id=16)

Michal Kravcik et al. (2008)
Tatras for People: Sustainable Development of the High Tatras National Park',
Tatra School for Regional Development, 118 pages (Slovak): ISBN: 978-80-970081-3-0,
(www.tatrapreludi.sk)

Michal Kravčík, Jan Pokorný, Juraj Kohutiar, Martin Kováč, Eugen Tóth. (2007)
Water for the Recovery of the Climate: A New Water Paradigm.
Zilina: Krupa Print, 108 pages (Slovak; trans. English 2008):
ISBN: 978-80-969766-5-2); Available for download from:
(www.vodnaparadigma.sk/indexsk.php?web=./home/homesk.html)
(www.waterparadigm.org/indexen.php?web=./home/homeen.html)

Michal Kravcik, Peter Pacaj (2006) *Green without Blue is only Yellow.*
Kosice: Typopress, 56 pages (Slovak): ISBN: 80-969546-2-8

Michal Kravcik, Jaroslav Tesliar, Jan Hronsky, Jaroslava Pajtinkova, Tibor Ico, Miroslav Bachnak, Pavel Petras, Maria Lisonova, Robert Zvara (2000)
Water for the Third Millenium.
Kosice: People and Water, 160 pages (Slovak; trans English 2002):
ISBN: 80-968031-3-1

Michal Kravcik, (2002) *Voda-Wasser-Water-Woda.*
Kosice: Typopress, 36 pages (Slovak; trans. Polish, English, German): ISBN: 80-968031-9-0

Edited Journal

Water: Blue Alternative:
publication of the NGO People and Water, 2002-03, 3 thematic issues per year
(sustainable development, water, local economy, agriculture, regions, the Roma, tourism):
(www.changenet.sk/ludiaavoda/ma/old/INDEX.HTM)

Blue Alternative Magazine:
publication of the NGO People and Water, 1995-2001, 5-6 issues per year

Other Publications

Articles in Slovak newspapers and magazines (some 1,400)
Reports in Slovak electronic media (around 600); numerous reports in international press

Films

TV documentary:
'Air Conditioning Breakdown' based on *Water for the Third Millennium* (2006) 39 mins.
Bratislava: Producer Katarina Zackova; Funded by LEON, Slovak and English versions:
(www.leonproductions.sk/html/sk/main/projekty.html)

TV documentary:
'Water Forest' based on the Water Forest project (2005) 11 mins, Slovak, English subtitles.
DVD version: The Metamorphoses of the Tatra Mountains, Bratislava: Producer Pavol Barabas, Funded by the Slovak Sabink Bank: (www.k2studio.sk/?cube=text&c=331&lg=en)

PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY ROLES

Board, Ziwiec Foundation for Development: (www.zfr.beskidy.org.pl), Ziwiec, Poland

Board, Blue Torysa Community Foundation: (www.modratorysa.sk), Lipany, Slovakia

Board, Foundation for Support of Civic Activities: (www.npoa.sk), Bratislava, Slovakia

2009 Advisor, Sozial-ökologische Forschungsgruppe, Universität Greifswald, Germany: (www.getidos.net)

2008, Zaragoza, Spain, International conference organization, Water for Recovery of Climate, World Water Expo

2004 Zaragoza, Preparation of the EU Declaration for The New Water Culture and Implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive: (www.euwater.unizar.es) sponsored by The New Water Culture Foundation, Spain

2003, Levoča, Slovakia, International conference organization, Water for Global Cooling, celebrating the 10th anniversary of the People and Water NGO

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Philanthropy and Support for New Institutions and Organizations

Slovak Wetland Restoration Fund:

People and Water NGO Endowment 500,000 SKK, 2002

Community Foundation Blue Torysa:

People and Water Endowment 1 million SKK from Goldman Environmental Prize, 1999

Support of two rounds of small grants – 250,000 SKK, 2001

Institutional and Technical Support

- Tatra School for Regional Development, 2009
- TATRAVIA, Regional development agency for Tatra region, 2007
- Čisté Tatry, Civic Organisation, High Tatras, 2003
- Ziwiec Development Agency, Ziwiec, Poland, 2002
- LITUR, Levoca Institut of Sustainable Development, Levoča, 2001
- SITUR, Sabinov Intitut of Sustainable Development, Sabinov, 2001
- Non-governmental organization For Nicer Lipany City, Lipany, 2000
- Community Foundation EKOSVINKA, 2000
- CIVITAS L, Levoca, 1998
- Non-governmental organization Stelbach, Tichy Potok, 1997
- Non-governmental organization Stone Mill, Krivany, 1996

RESEARCH AND CONSULTING

2010-12, Government Landscape Restoration Program and Integrated Watershed Management of Slovak republic (42 mil. euro). Executive manager

2009-10, Villages as Leaders in Regional Development, European Social Fund (Euro 258,413)
Project Coordinator: To prepare employees in self-knowledge and in the application of innovative strategies for effective public service in social and economic development.

2009-10, Water Without Borders. Financial Fund of Norway and the EU (Euro 142,488)
Project Coordinator: Learning how to save water resources, each side of the Slovak/Ukraine border.

2007-08, Water for Restoration of Nature in the High Tatras. Environment Ministry, Slovak Republic (Euro 139,500) Project Coordinator: Rainwater saving for nature, pilot project in the Botanic Garden.

2008 Torino, Training Course for the Youth Water Movement, sponsored by Anna Lindh Foundation.

2007-08, People's Water University, European Social Fund (Euro 465,000)
 Project Coordinator: To strengthen social inclusion and equal opportunity by educating unemployed rural people in general and specialised skills for sustainable water management and flood prevention.

2006 Sofia, Team Leader, Implementation, Integrative Water Management for Marica River.

2005-06, Water Forest of Slovenska, Sportelna, Slovak Savings Bank (Euro 331,939)
 Project Coordinator: Restoring forest in the High Tatras with small holding reservoirs and new trees.

2005-06, Kultura – Identitat – Dialog, EU Fund for Culture 2000 (Euro 15,400).
 Project Coordinator for Slovakia: To conserve rural character; use local resources in economic development; increase the attractiveness of rural regions so inhabitants stay. Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland. Lead partner: Denkmal Akademie, Gorlitz: (www.denkmalakademie.de).

2003-06 Rural Centres For Sustainable Development, Grundtvig, EU Fund (Euro 23,590)
 Project Partner: Setting up Rural Community Centres for sustainable development, to increase education, and decrease unemployment. Process based on the Folk High School with attention to holistic personal growth. Poland, Slovakia, Denmark, Great Britain. Lead Partner Stowarzyszenie Ekologiczno-Kulturalne, Ziarno, Poland: (www.ziarno.org.pl).

2004-05, Strategic Development Plan for Rural Area, EU SAPARD programme (Euro 31,200)
 Project Coordinator: A strategic development plan involving inhabitants in a rural area near Kosice.

2001-04, Civil Links of Slovakia, MATRA, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Euro 174.100)
 Project Coordinator: Enhancing integrated regional development in two pilot counties, Levoca and Sabinov by nurturing cooperation between NGO's, business, municipality, state government, associations, and volunteers.

2000-02 Helping Ourselves, PHARE LIEN, EU Educational Fund (Euro 256.131)
 Project Coordinator: Strengthening the capacity of unemployed and marginal groups to undertake small business and self-employment in Slovakia and Bulgaria.

2000-02 Association of Svinka Villages, Integrated Water Management for the Svinka River Basin.

2000 Association of Upper Torysa villages and towns, Coordinator:
 Developing multi-sectoral interactive dialogues, public participation and workshops between state organizations, local governments, business, and NGOs.

1997-99 Slovak Association of Towns and Villages, Analysis of the hydrological regime of Slovakia.

1995 Slovak Water Management Company, Analysis of the state of water sources and their exploitation in the Hron River Basin.

1994-96 Regional Association of Towns and Villages, Analysis of the Torysa River Basin.

1993-94 Slovak Water Management Company, Analysis of the state of water sources and their exploitation in the Turcek River Basin.

1993-94 Institute for Sustainable Life, An Alternative Water Management Policy for Slovakia.

1992 Ecology Institute, Czech Republic, Analysis of the hydrological regime of the Sana River.

1988-89 Institute of Ecology, Slovak Academy of Science, Research on the hydrological regime of the East Slovakia Lowland.

1981-86 Institute of Hydrology and Hydraulics, Slovak Academy of Science, Research on the hydraulics of melioration channels in the East Slovakia Lowland.

TEACHING SPECIALISATIONS

- integrated river basin management
- analysis of hydrology and hydro-climate change
- landscape ecology
- development strategies for water policy
- community and regional sustainable development
- multi-sectoral interactive dialogues and preparation of strategic development programmes for communities, regions and sectoral politics

PUBLIC LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2012, Oslo, Lecture a training to build floods prevention measures (kvisdammer) in Norland, sponsored by Norwegian Water sources and Energy Directorate (NVE)
<http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/md/kampanjer/klimatilpasning-norge-2/bibliotek/erfaringer/kvisdammer---ny-teknikk-for-a-holde-kul.html?id=706282>
- 2011, Sydney, Lecture: New Water Paradigm, Evapotranspiration and Climate Change, sponsored by Australian National Sequence Farming
- 2010, Kosice, Address: 'Protection against Flood, Drought and Climate Change', Water without Borders Conference, sponsored by the Norway Financial Fund and EU
- 2009, Kosice, Lecture: 'The Central European Path to Innovation for Recovery of Climate', (www.ourclimate.eu/ourclimate/newsdetail.aspx?itemid=5b734d5e-b9be-4724-b107-e57e7b54eadf)
- 2009, Copenhagen, Lecture: 'Kořice Civic Protocol on Water, Vegetation and Climate', People's Climate Summit COP15, sponsored by OurClimate project: (www.ourclimate.eu)
- 2009, Berlin, Panel: 'The New Water Deal', at the workshop Green New Deal or Social-Ecological Transformation, sponsored by the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- 2009, Greifswald, Invited Symposium Presentation: 'Getting Things Done with People and Water', Greifswald University, sponsored by the Prof. Michael Succow (Right Livelihood Award) Foundation: (www.botanik.uni-greifswald.de/310.html?&L=1)
- 2009, Brussels, Address: 'Water for the Recovery of the Climate', 4th Innovation Summit at the European Parliament, sponsored by OurClimate project: (www.ourclimate.eu)
- 2009, Oxford, Lecture: 'Water and the Millennium Development Goals', Skoll Foundation Social Summit: (www.skollworldforum.com)
- 2008, Kosice, Film Interview: Documentary producer Sam Bozzo: 'Blue Gold: World Water Wars', (www.bluegold-worldwaterwars.com),
- 2008, High Tatras, Lecture: 'The Sustainability Principle for Integrated Water Management of Watersheds', People's Water University
- 2008, Berlin, Public Lecture: Water Week, European College for Liberal Arts
- 2007, Buenos Aires, Paper: 'The Youth Water Movement', sponsored by ASHOKA, USA
- 2004, Ohrid, Lecture: 'EU Water Framework Directive in Slovakia, as a model for Macedonia and Kosovo', UNDP Water Programmes, Bratislava
- 2004, Almaty, Lecture: 'The EU Water Framework Directive, as a model for Kazakhstan', sponsored by the Centre for Analysis of Foreign Policy, Kazakhstan
- 2003-04, Lecture/s on Implementation of the Kosice Water Protocol, City Hall Kosice
- 2002, Johannesburg, Workshop/s: 'The Slovak Experience and Strategy for Restoration of Water to River Basins', World Summit for Sustainable Development, sponsored by the Goldman Environmental Fund

- 2002, Vancouver, Paper: 'A New Theory of Global Warming', Water for People and Nature Conference, sponsored by the Council of Canadians
 - 1997, Fort Lauderdale, Presentation 'Blue Alternative for a Blue Planet', Conference of the Association for Ecological Restoration, USA
 - Some 100 lectures in Slovakia on water, climate change, community and regional development
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