



Kogi Film Screening Talk

Good Evening

It is wonderful for us to be here tonight for this screening of Aluna with Alan Ereira here in person and for us to have five minutes to speak with you all, about our fresh water project.

First we would like to take this opportunity to extend our huge gratitude to Alan Ereira for so wonderfully conveying the valuable messages from the Kogi Mamas out into the world.

We are some of the many people around the world that were deeply touched by the Kogi Mama's 'Message from the Heart of the World'. It was one of the great influences that have inspired us to dedicate our lives to doing what we can towards preserving our common natural world that is presently under extreme threat.

We were also very inspired when we had the opportunity to meet with Alan and three of the Kogi at the UN Rio+20 Sustainable Development Summit 2012.

Our names are Tara Joy and Stella Joy and we have been working together for more than 10 years as a mother and daughter team. In 2005 we established Active Remedy in order to address a critical imbalance occurring in the global water cycle.

Our global water cycle is in crisis and could stop functioning effectively within the next thirty years because the ecosystems, which sustain it are rapidly being degraded worldwide.

This crisis is one that the Kogi Mamas warned us all about in the 90's when they spoke about melting mountain glaciers disappearing forests and the drying up of rivers and water sources.

However despite the fact that this endangers all life on Earth, it has not been taken seriously enough. Today the fresh water crisis and scarcity of water for millions is even more severe and widespread than it was 20 years ago.

This is why we decided to see what we personally could do to address these problems.

Safeguarding the water cycle has been our main focus because it underpins and connects all other issues. It doesn't matter where we come from, our race, gender, religion, status, age, profession or even species; we are all united by our common dependence upon freshwater. Even our climate and local weather is totally inseparable from the water cycle. Therefore, we are dedicated to uniting people around the

world, to work together to protect our common global water cycle.

For this cycle to function effectively, it depends upon natural ecosystems. These include mountain regions, mixed forests and rivers.

Active Remedy is working for the protection and restoration of these ecosystems with particular focus upon mixed mountain region biodiversity.

It is surprising how few people know about the natural ecosystem mechanisms, which keep the global water cycle functioning and how it is related to the fact that so many of these ecosystems have been seriously degraded that we are all facing a global water crisis.

In 2012, UN Water created a Task Force to analyse this crisis and to create a brief, which would guide governments on addressing global water security. In March 2013 they released the Analytical Brief. It states:

“Ensuring that ecosystems are protected and conserved is central to achieving water security.”

Over the last 10 years we have researched the situation, communicated with a wide spectrum of groups, specialists, politicians and grass root mountain communities. From this we have formulated a blueprint model that is in accord with the needs and traditions of mountain communities and which,

with their assistance could be implemented to help resolve the problems.

We have also been working on bringing greater awareness and attention to the global water cycle and having it included within the global sustainable development dialogues.

Through our membership and contacts with different civil society groups we have been able to contribute input towards several UN papers on the Sustainable Development Goals and Post 2015 targets.

Last year our work was accepted as a way of mitigating climate change problems and we were accepted as partners with the UNFCCC within the Climate Change program.

It is sometimes a long uphill slog but we hope that in some way it can encourage any of you that may need some encouragement, that we all can and do have an impact. We just need to decide what kind of impact we want to have.

The Kogi Mamas have sent us some very wise warnings and suggestions. Hopefully we can take these away with us and integrate them into our lives.

This statement is especially poignant for us:

“We do not need to abandon our lives but we must protect our rivers.”

We are all needed and we can all play a part. We do not have to be the ocean that carves continents but if we are like a

drop in the ocean and join our drop with many others then our impact can be huge and very fruitful.

This is Our World, Our Water & Our Responsibility