

Active Remedy Ltd.

Active Remedy Ltd. is a Not for Profit, Ltd Company, registered in the U.K in 2005. We were founded for the purpose of safeguarding the global water cycle, through the protection and restoration of the environments it depends upon to function. The founding Directors are Stella Joy and Tara Joy.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/>

Since 2003 the Directors of Active Remedy Ltd have become aware of a major imbalance in the global water cycle and the inherent threat this poses to the majority of life on Earth if not remedied. We therefore needed to gain a greater understanding of the nature of the water cycle.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/time-to-think-past-our-kitchen-sinks-read-more/>

Applying both insight and foresight we began research into this problem and how to conceivably remedy it; through focusing essentially on the environmental factors, which maintain this cycle. Our main focus has been mountains and their natural Eco-systems.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/mountain-ecosystems-are-crucial-for-fresh-water-2/>

“When considering freshwater it is vital to consider mountain regions. They play an extremely crucial and irreplaceable role in the hydrological processes of the planet and in the regional hydrology of all continents.”(Roots and Glen 1982).

Mountain regions cover approximately 25% of the Earths’ land surface and source between 60% and 80% of Earths’ freshwater. All of Earths rivers have their headwaters and origins in them. They are also known as the ‘Water Towers’ of the world and provide critical storage of freshwater in the form of glaciers, ice and snow. Many streams and rivers would cease to flow entirely if their headwaters and watersheds were not fed by the seasonal melting of these snows. Such valuable storage of fresh water is vital for all life on Earth.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/mountains-are-the-water-towers-of-the-world/>

“However nowadays glaciers and mountain snows are retreating, shrinking and thinning rapidly in all regions of the world and the degradation of permafrost is accelerating.” (UNEP WGMS 2008).

This situation threatens the freshwater, food supply and security for the majority of life on Earth.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/glaciers-are-melting-at-an-unprecedented-rate/>

We have examined the relationship between mixed indigenous mountain forests, the water cycle, bio precipitation and climate regulation and gained some important insight into the roles played by mixed indigenous mountain forests full of a wide variety of plants and species. Through further research in to bio-precipitation we became aware that mixed indigenous mountain forests play a major role in the transformational process of H₂O moving from gas, to solid and liquid forms, which pine alone cannot do effectively.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/can-there-be-rain-without-plants/>

As is widely known a huge proportion of mountain forests and water provisioning forests have been removed worldwide on a gigantic scale within recent decades and enormous monoculture plantations have been used to replace them. However what seems to be less understood, is that this not only causes enormous problems to the local areas in regards to erosion, flooding and drought but also to the whole world in regards to the regenerative nature of the global water cycle, quantities of fresh water available for all life forms and worldwide climate regulation. This is still happening and needs to stop for the continuum of evolution on Earth.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/time-for-a-fresh-look-at-the-water-cycle-and-forests/>

Through further investigation, we realized that greenhouse gas, so dramatically increased by the escalation of carbons is also increased by water vapor unable to return to Earth as ice, snow and water through bio-precipitation. Water vapor H₂O is a very powerful greenhouse gas, which normally stays in the atmosphere for around nine days. However if it is not brought to Earth through precipitation, it rises into the upper atmosphere and increases the problems of the greenhouse effect and thus exacerbates 'Global Warming' (Santer 2007). Applying this knowledge we have become aware that 'Climate Change' not only adversely affects mountain regions but that mountain regions also have a direct and powerful effect on 'Climate Change'. Permafrost, ice and snow in the high Himalayas regulate the climate for the entire Northern Hemisphere (Zhang Yongze).

<http://www.activeremedy.org/the-third-pole-and-its-importance-to-water-and-climate/>

Integrating all this knowledge it has become very clear to us that mixed indigenous mountain forests full of biodiversity are essential for the healthy functioning of the global water cycle. Therefore they are also crucial for mitigating many of the impending 'Climate Change' related disasters. Consequently we have been working on formulating a sustainable development model that could be used for the restoration and preservation of indigenous mountain forests globally. Supporting and educating rural mountain communities as stewards of fresh water and natural resources, creating green economies and promoting gender equality are fundamental and essential aspects of this model. It is also important that we listen to and work directly with these communities, to apply the wisdom of their traditional knowledge systems.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/global-solutions-to-global-problems/>

Applying this knowledge and using foresight, we began conceiving ideas of how to replace these mixed indigenous mountain forests approximately 25% globally within 30 years. The ideas, which we are proposing have been evolved from years of communicating with mountain communities, groups, scientists and specialists. This has been with the purpose of identifying specific needs and requirements, to enable it to be effective and long term sustainable. This model is a permaculture model, combining the traditional knowledge of Sacred Groves, along with green belts/ corridors. This model demonstrates innovative, restorative and preservation techniques along with practical methods for building and sustaining healthy mountain communities and their environments. We believe that the method, which we have formulated, has the potential to be used successfully as a template worldwide. We have termed this model: 'The Green Groves and Green Corridor Model'

<http://www.activeremedy.org/the-sacred-groves-and-green-corridors-biodiversity-network/>

In November 2011 we submitted ideas for the U.N. Sustainable Development Zero Draft paper concerning fresh water, mountains and the importance of the ecosystems, which maintain and regulate the global water cycle.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&nr=406&type=510&menu=20&template=529&str=Water>

In February 2012, along with many civil society groups we submitted ideas to the newly formed Zero Draft that would finally become 'The Future We Want'. Our contribution, in which we stress the importance of mountain ecosystems in the maintenance of the global hydrological cycle and the regulation of Earth's climate can be found on page 95 of the paper below.

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/content/documents/465Zerodraft%20-%20FINAL%20VERSION%20-%20March%2005.pdf>

At the U.N.C.S.D Rio+20 in 2012 the importance of these environmental factors were acknowledged and included into the new Sustainable Development Document.

"We recognize the key role that ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and quality and support actions within the respective national boundaries to protect and sustainably manage these ecosystems." (The Future We Want RES/A/66/288 para. 122)

In June 2012 we attended the U.N Sustainable Development Conference in Rio, where we displayed an exhibition of our work in the Mountain Pavilion, hosted by Peru in Athletes Park.

www.activeremedy.org/gallery/

Since then we have been mainly focused on U.N Water Security and the Post 2015 Agenda. This has involved us submitting work to the U.N, the E.U Commission and being invited to become part of the Beyond 2015 Water Drafting Committee.) (Related papers are in the links below)

<http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/Position%20paper%20Water.pdf>

On the 25th September 2012 we added input into the U.N-Water Analytical Brief, which was being framed to form the foundation for U.N Water Security. We are very pleased to say that our input was accepted.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/news-posts/un-water-expert-panel/>

The Analytical Brief was released on World Water Day 22/3/13 to guide world governments on water security issues and it clearly states that:

"Ensuring that ecosystems are protected and conserved is central to achieving water security – both for people and for nature. Ecosystems are vital to sustaining the quantity and quality of water available within a watershed, on which both nature and people rely. Maintaining the integrity of ecosystems is essential for supporting the diverse needs of humans, including domestic, agricultural, energy and industrial water use, and for the sustainability of ecosystems, including protecting the water-provisioning services they provide."

<http://inweh.unu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Water-Security-and-the-Global-Water-Agenda.pdf>

It has now been concluded by U.N Water that the ecosystems and environments, such as the hydrological cycle, which maintain essential services needed for all life on Earth are threatened with collapse if not given appropriate and immediate attention.

“Maintaining the integrity of ecosystems before they become compromised is an essential component of achieving water security and reducing the potential for conflicts. The continuous pace of human development is threatening the capacity of ecosystems to adapt, raising concerns that ecosystems will reach a tipping point after which they are no longer able to provide sustaining functions and services, and will become unable to recover their integrity and functions (Maas, 2012). Establishing sustainability boundaries will set the capacity of ecosystems before their limit is surpassed, acting as a preventative measure before crises and conflicts arise.”

http://inweh.unu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/WaterSecurity_The-Global-Water-Crisis.pdf

With this knowledge the key roles that ecosystems, especially mountains, mixed indigenous mountain forests and wetlands play in maintaining freshwater quantity and quality globally, need to be given top priority. Supportive efforts that protect, sustainably manage and restore these ecosystems need to be undertaken as a matter of urgency for water security, which is central to national and international security.

Although the concept of universal access to clean water and sanitation is a worthwhile ideal and aim, it is impossible to realize it, if the very freshwater cycle itself is compromised and unable to fulfil its natural function. Recognizing that the restoration and conservation of all ecosystems, which the global freshwater cycle is dependent upon, is central to all national and international security, it becomes imperative that actions, which support these ecosystems, are taken imminently. All human rights are dependent upon there being adequate supplies of clean fresh water.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/the-human-right-to-water-2/>

“Water, economic and environmental security are inherently interconnected. Human life is intimately linked to, and utterly dependent on, the functions and services provided by freshwater ecosystems. Safe, reliable water supplies, flood protection, commercial and subsistence fisheries, cultural and spiritual values – the very foundations of economic development and human well-being – all depend on maintaining the integrity of the planet’s aquatic ecosystems.” (U.N Water Security August 2012)

If we are to reverse the degradation of the environmental systems that support civilization and all life, we need to act now. For the MAHB vision of a world moving rapidly towards sustainability in 2050 if ever the protection and re balancing of the global freshwater cycle needs to be addressed and attended to.

Wherever we live in the world there are things that we all commonly depend upon. These in turn are dependent upon environmental conditions on the other side of the world. No aspects of nature show this more clearly than the atmosphere and the hydrological cycle, which supply the same fundamental air and water to all beings around the world. The same common water that supplied the needs of all our ancestors hundreds of thousands of years ago provides for our needs today. It is not so long ago that the water in a river in the county where we live, was in a river, lake or even aquifer thousands of miles away.

<http://www.activeremedy.org/the-common-need-for-freshwater/>

This is an urgent, innovative, exciting and challenging issue, which could unite MAHB members along with many others in a globally connected action plan. It is high time that humanity regains and works with the natural common sense and understanding of this common connectivity. We need to recognise that nature is an interconnected web of interrelated systems in the same way that the human body is and that we are an interlinked part of it and not independent from it.

We welcome you all to join us. 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.

Thank you for your consideration.