

## Pierre L. Ibisch

- Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Pierre L. Ibisch (\*1967) was a Professor for “Nature Conservation” at the Faculty for Forest and Environment at [Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development](#) since 2004.
- In March 2024, the denomination of his permanent professorship changed to “Socio-ecology of forest ecosystems”.
- Since 2009, he has also held research professorships, the latest of which is dedicated to "Ecosystem-based sustainable development".
- He received an honorary doctorate from the National Forestry University of Ukraine in Lviv.

In Eberswalde, Pierre served as dean of the faculty and long-term member of the faculty board and the senate.

He is founding director of the [Centre for Economics and Ecosystem Management](#) (since 2011) and was one of the scientific directors of the [Biosphere Reserves Institute](#) (2019-2024), which achieved UNESCO status (as Category II institute).

He was founding head of the international Master's programme *Global Change Management*, M.Sc., co-created the international Master's programme *Biosphere Reserves Management*, M.Sc. in Eberswalde, and is founder of the new Bachelor's programme *Sozialökologisches Waldmanagement* (Socio-ecological forest management), B.Sc. (2024- ). As the academic initiator of this programme, he is responsible for the creation of an inter-institutional network that also provides long-term funding for three new endowed professorships.

For many years, he has served on the board of the *Society for Conservation Biology* Europe Section (2005-2007, 2011-2013) and as chair of the Policy Committee of the section. He was a co-founder of the *European Congress of Conservation Biology* (ECCB; 2006 onwards).

He is a member of the advisory board of the [Naturwald Akademie](#) and Michael Succow Foundation as well of the [board of trustees of NABU](#) (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, Germany).

At Eberswalde University, he has been a frontrunner in the acquisition of third-party funding for many years.

**Extensive experience with research and nature conservation projects in countries of the global South, in Europe and Asia.** He spent around 9 years living and working in Bolivia, where his work included helping to develop the national biodiversity strategy and setting up a new organisation to protect the Chiquitano dry forest. He led the teams responsible for the region's first conservation and development plan and a national protected area gap analysis. He is (co-)author of dozens of [new plant](#) and [animal](#) taxa, mainly from Bolivia. He has also carried out consultancy and research work in Eurasia, Central and South America and Africa, and has been responsible for several projects in Europe. (e.g. related to landscape planning or ecosystem-based climate change adaptation). Since 2010, he is dedicated to the continuous development of a methodology for adaptive risk and vulnerability management in conservation and sustainable development ([MARISCO](#) methodology). For instance, the methodology was used for the nomination and management planning of Asia's first

transboundary biosphere reserve in the Altai Mountains, coordinated by Pierre and his team. It also serves as conceptual fundament of the Master's programme *Global Change Management*, M.Sc.

**International teaching experience**, academic course delivery (e.g. Universities of Bonn, Germany; Utrecht, Netherlands; Klagenfurt, Austria; Prishtina, Kosovo; Shkodr, Albania).

**Teaching experience at Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Germany (since 2003)**, mainly in the programmes of Socioecological Forest Management (B.Sc.), Forestry (B.Sc.), International Forest Ecosystem Management (B.Sc.), Forest Information Technology (M.Sc.), Global Change Management (M.Sc.), Biosphere Reserves Management (M.Sc.). Modules comprising “Biodiversity, Nature Conservation, and Ecosystem Management”, “Nature Conservation”, “Ecosystem Management in Transformation Countries”, “Ecosystems Diagnostics Analysis”, “Adaptive Ecosystem Management”, “Fundamentals of Systems Functionality and Change”, “Introduction to Sustainable Development”.

**Evaluator of programmes, project proposals, student scholarship applications:** e.g., Helmholtz-Zentrum für Umweltforschung (UFZ) Leipzig: Helmholtz Interdisciplinary Graduate School for Environmental Research – HIGRADE, 2011; Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt, LWF Bayern, National Research Network for Low Carbon Energy and the Environment, Welsh Government. Member of DAAD evaluation commission “Qualitätsnetzwerk Biodiversität” (2009-2022). Evaluator of scholarship applications for Heinrich Böll Foundation (2007-2023).

**Extensive publication activity** with >610 scientific articles, chapters and book publications mainly on botany, ecology and sustainability; mainly in English, Spanish and German<sup>1</sup>. Amongst others, Pierre is leading editor and author of a textbook on biodiversity in Bolivia, and a textbook on sustainable development (in German and English)<sup>2</sup>. He is co-author of a popular [textbook bestseller on forests](#)<sup>3</sup>. He is a co-founder of the Roadless Initiative and first author of a global study on roadless areas published in *Science*, which achieved top public attention<sup>4</sup>. He is regularly involved in peer-review activities for numerous international journals.

**Forest-related research** work refers to the investigation of ecosystem properties for microclimatic buffering and cooling and for post-calamity restoration. He is leader of two long-term project consortia. As leading critical voice in Germany, he regularly comments on forest ecology and forest policy issues. A special interest goes to the effectiveness of sustainability certification. A certain focus of his work is the European beech forest ecosystem. Pierre and his team were also responsible for a Europe-wide screening and the organization of a dialogue process for nomination with scientists and senior ministerial officials from 20 countries within the framework of the

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<sup>1</sup> 6,779 citations; *h index* according to *Google Scholar* of 37; according to *ResearchGate* of 32.

<sup>2</sup> IBISCH, P.L., H. MOLITOR, A. CONRAD, H. WALK, V. MIHOTOVIC & J. GEYER (eds.) (2019): *Humans in the global ecosystem. An introduction to sustainable development*. Oekom Verlag, München, 409 pp.

<sup>3</sup> WOHLLEBEN, P. & P.L. IBISCH (2023): *Waldwissen. Vom Wald her die Welt verstehen. Erstaunliche Erkenntnisse über den Wald, den Menschen und unsere Zukunft*. Ludwig.

<sup>4</sup> In the 99th percentile: it's in the top 5% of all research outputs ever tracked by [Altmetric](#); rank 26 of all 983 outputs from *Science* of similar age (October 2024).

extension of a serial UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated to old beech forests. He was also involved in the nomination process.

**Work experience outside academia**

Head of Science department of the largest conservation NGO in Bolivia (*Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza/ CIM*, 1997-2003). Consultancy work / head of consultancy teams, field work and workshop organisation/implementation in Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, UK, Georgia, China, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala, Namibia (e.g., for FAN-Bolivia, GIZ, GOPA, OroVerde, SNV Netherlands, EnvPro; since 1993, ongoing).

**Past board memberships**

Board of Deutsche Umweltstiftung (2014-2022; vice chair 2015-2022). Member of the Advisory Board of the International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Bundesamt für Naturschutz (2015-2017). Member of several advisory boards of projects, protected areas, foundations (e.g., *Conservation Chair Bromeliad Society International*; 2005-2010; *external Advisory Group, ZEFConsult, Bonn*; 2007-2008).