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Veterinarian graduated at the University Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil with Master in Science in animal production in CATIE, Costa Rica, *Dr. medicinae veterinariae* in animal reproduction and production hygiene in the College of Veterinary Medicine of Hannover, Germany. Founder and Chancellor of the University for International Cooperation where he also is the Chair of the UNESCO Chair for Biosphere Reserves and Natural and Mixed World Heritage Sites. He also coordinates several projects in biosphere reserves, protected areas, local rural development, poverty and conservation, both nationally and internationally. He has worked in various areas including sustainable development, sustainable tourism, policies in sustainable tourism, eco and agro-tourism, local agenda 21, wildlife management, project development and evaluation, management of protected areas, animal production and reproduction, alternative production systems, curriculum development, training, academic administration and research.

In recent years has been intensely involved in the communication of climate change having given over 40 conferences on climate change in more than 20 countries of America and Europe to a diverse public from parliamentarians, governors and ministers to local and indigenous communities. Has been invited to speak on diverse aspects of climate change by various organizations such as the World Climate Congress-3 from the World Meteorological Organization, the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), the Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), The Earth Charter, IUCN, national and provincial legislatures, among others.

Currently he is involved in an honorary way in various organizations:

- Vice-Chair of the World Commission for Protected Areas - IUCN for Central American, Mexico and Hispanic Caribbean.
- Member of the International Advisory Committee, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB).
- Climate Change Messenger, The Climate Project - Al Gore.
- Member of the Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve Management Committee in Chile, having supported the establishment of this Biosphere Reserve. Good Will Ambassador of the La Palma Biosphere Reserve, Canary Islands, Spain.

He has been an international consultant for GTZ, UNDP, World Bank, UNESCO, IAEA, IICA, CATIE, CCAD, FCBC, governments and various organizations on issues of local development, protected areas, local agenda 21, sustainable tourism, among others, having had professional activities in more than 25 countries.

Prior to his current position he was a long term professor of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) at the National University of Costa Rica where he founded and led for several years the regional graduate program on Tropical Veterinary Sciences. He was the director of the Regional masters program in ecological tourism at the Latin American University of Science and Technology, in Costa Rica. He was a member of the National Advisory Council of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, CATIE. He was the professional in charge of several wildlife management projects such as green iguana and the scarlet macaw (*Ara macau*). He was also the executive director of the La Marta Wildlife Refuge with 1400 hectares of rainforest. He has lectured at several universities in Latin America, Europe and United States. It is the author of several scientific and technical publications.