

Science journalism and a multi-directional science-policy-society dialogue are needed to foster public awareness for biodiversity and its conservation

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Author biographies

Jonas Geschke is research analyst in the German Advisory Council on Global Change, and science officer in the Scientific Secretariat of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation, based at the Institute of Plant Sciences at the University of Bern. His research focuses on the role of biodiversity for sustainable development, stakeholder participation in science-policy-interfaces relevant for biodiversity, and the enhancement of scientific advice in environmental policy. His social media activities are focused on Twitter/X.

Matthias C. Rillig is a professor of ecology at the Institute of Biology of Freie Universität Berlin and director of the Berlin-Brandenburg Institute of Advanced Biodiversity Research. He is member of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation. His research focuses on soils, soil biodiversity and the effects of global change on terrestrial ecosystems. He is engaging in a range of social media channels, for instance Twitter/X and YouTube.

Katrin Böhning-Gaese is director of the Senckenberg Biodiversity and Climate Research Centre and professor at Goethe University Frankfurt. She is member of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation. She studies the interactions between humans and ecosystems, in particular the impact of climate and land-use change on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and the effect of biodiversity for nature's contributions to people and human well-being. Furthermore, she is very engaged at the science-policy and science-society interface.

Thomas Potthast, a biologist and philosopher, is Full Professor of Ethics, Theory and History of the Life Sciences and Director of the International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW) at the University of Tübingen. He is member of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation. He researches and teaches on bioethics, philosophy of nature/culture, sustainable development, philosophical and historical dimensions of the life sciences and nature conservation, and ethics and epistemology of inter- and transdisciplinary, and transformative research.

Adina Arth works as a science officer in the Scientific Secretariat of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation, based at the Institute of Plant Sciences at the University of Bern. Her research interests are directed toward understanding the social, political, and economic dimensions of biodiversity conservation. Her outreach focuses on youth engagement in biodiversity policy and on Twitter/X.

Lynn V. Dicks is an Associate Professor of Animal Ecology, in the Department of Zoology at the University of Cambridge, UK. Her research focuses on insect conservation, agroecology, and the science policy mechanisms to improve use of evidence in biodiversity conservation. She worked as a science writer and broadcaster for eight years, before embarking on a research career.

Fritz Habekuss is an environmental reporter with DIE ZEIT, Germany's biggest quality weekly newspaper, based in Berlin and Hamburg.

Daniela Kleinschmit is leading the Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy at the University of Freiburg, and the University's Vice-President for Internationalization and Sustainability. She is also the Vice-President of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations. In her research, she focuses on national and international forest policy integration, bioeconomy, and political media communication.

Harald Lesch is Professor for Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Faculty of Physics at LMU Munich. Next to his research in astrophysics, he is a science journalist and science communicator, with experience in, among others, television and audio books.

Eva M. Spehn graduated in plant ecology and works at the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) in Bern, Switzerland, with the Swiss Biodiversity Forum. Her work focuses on the international science-policy interface on biodiversity with the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and on science communication and synthesis.

Silvio Wenzel is editor at the Science Media Center Germany, based in Cologne, with a thematic focus on environment and climate. Before, he spent 13 years as a freelance science journalist for television, where he worked as a writer for various science editorial programs.

Markus Fischer is Professor of Plant Ecology and Director of the Botanical Garden of the University of Bern. He is member of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES, member of the Advisory Council on Global Change of the German Government, and Chair of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation. He has longstanding interests and expertise in biodiversity research, collaborative research, and linking science and society/policy.

Alexandra-Maria Klein is leading the Chair of Nature Conservation and Landscape Ecology at the University of Freiburg. She is member of the Permanent Senate Commission on Fundamental Issues of Biological Diversity of the German Research Foundation. Her research focuses on the biodiversity of plant-animal interactions in agricultural landscapes with multiple engagements in science communication and policy recommendations. Her social media activities focus on Twitter/X.