

Personal Message from the Authors



Michael von Hauff

This collection of articles results from a scientific conference at the TUM Study and Science Center in Raitenhaslach from 20 to 22 March 2019, entitled “Violated Earth—Violent Earth. Causes and Effects of Human’s Misbehavior and Nature’s Power.” Merely by coincidence, this event, featuring several decades of Peter Wilderer’s stimulating sustainability research, concurred with his 80th birthday. Therefore, we, the contributors to this volume, want to take this opportunity and cordially thank our editor-in-chief for his lifetime’s work.

During the course of his career, Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Peter A. Wilderer left many marks not only in the scientific but also political sphere: He contributed to the advancement of his scientific discipline and pushed the boundaries of his scientific work to include more interdisciplinary and holistic ideas. He inspired not only scientists and scholars but also practitioners and politicians through his ability to think out of the box and beyond, integrating insights from the technical, natural, and social sciences.

The greatest honor for Peter Wilderer’s scientific achievements is the Stockholm Water Prize 2003, which was awarded for his excellent research targeted toward designing a more sustainable water and sanitation future. He has been and continues to be a pioneer in inter- and transdisciplinary work and emphasizes the need for scientists to advise and inform policy-making. He has been strongly influenced by the experience of the Dahlem conferences at FU Berlin when he was a young researcher. During that time, he started to enjoy and cherish the mutual exchange between and beyond the disciplines.

Because of this experience, he founded the IESP—Institute for Earth System Preservation—after his retirement from the Technical University of Munich. His

M. von Hauff (✉)

Technical University Kaiserslautern, Kaiserslautern, Germany

e-mail: hauff-stuttgart@gmx.de

International Expert Group on Earth System Preservation, TUM Institute for Advanced Study, Garching, Germany

ambition has been to foster transdisciplinary research and communication and inspire innovative thinking for the benefit of nature and human society. Directed toward the goal of solving humanity's self-made problems by providing feasible, practical solutions he has been an active change agent toward introducing more sustainable practices in Earth system management. Consequently, strategies for sustainability of the Earth system, is a foray of more than ten years of IESP thinking.

Given his visionary approach toward science, he has set the stage for many younger scholars to pursue the path of a scientific career directed toward progress in sustainable development. Besides his pushing boundaries and fostering a holistic picture, he has a talent for recognizing original thinking and encouraging it in other people, especially young, even if he disagrees. In this way, he could catalyze such a vibrant and diverse community as IESP where all people feel valued and different perspectives nourish each other (rather than compete) across disciplines, countries, and cultures.

Not only his scientific partners and colleagues but also many decision-makers that received practical advice from Peter Wilderer express their gratitude for his restless efforts in advancing science and caring for the Earth system as our common home. They all hope he will remain healthy and energetic in the coming years to continue leading the academic and practical communities toward a more sustainable future.

On behalf of all contributors to this volume:

Konrad Oexle, Patrick Dewilde, Martin Grambow, Birgit Herbst-Gaebel, Agnes Limmer, Anastassia M. Makarieva, Wolfram Mauser, Michael Molls, Ortwin Renn, and Michael von Hauff.