

Dr. Jürgen Blaser

Juergen Blaser is currently the Head of the Advisory Service and Deputy Director of Intercooperation, the Swiss Foundation for Development and International Cooperation, headquartered in Bern, Switzerland. Intercooperation works in 22 developing countries and countries in transition and employs worldwide more than 400 people. He worked since 1981 in international development cooperation in natural resource management in various functions and institutions, including as a senior forester in the World Bank in Washington D.C. from 1996 to 2002 and had long term working assignments in Costa Rica, Peru, Madagascar and SE-Asia for the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). He gained a Forest Engineer Degree of the Swiss Institute for Technology in Forestry in 1980, a Post-graduate degree in tropical forestry and agriculture in 1981 and a PhD in Tropical Forest Ecology from the Georg-August University, Goettingen, Germany in 1987. Dr. Blaser was the Chair of the International Tropical Timber Council 2001 and 2002 and co-chair of the negotiation of the new International Tropical Timber Agreement within UNCTAD between 2003 and 2006. He represented the World Bank in the Interagency Task Force on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests between 1987 and 1991 and is involved as a technical advisor in for the Swiss Delegation in UNFF since 2002. He is currently a core member of the Independent Technical Advisory Panel of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank and the Forest Investment Programme of the Strategic Climate Funds. He co-authored on behalf of ITTO and FAO the revised Criteria and Indicators Set (1999 and 2005), the Guidelines for Forest Restoration (2003) and the two Status of Tropical Forest Management Report 2006 and 2011. He is a board member of various international forestry organisations, including the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Tropical Forest Foundation, the Rights and Resources Initiative and the Program on Forests (PROFOR) of the World Bank. He is widely recognized in the forest sector worldwide as a person of high ethical standards, combined with admirable communication skills and good working commands of several internationally spoken languages. In August 2011, Dr. Blaser will start his new assignment as a Professor and Senior Lecturer for International Forestry and Climate Change at the Swiss College for Agriculture of the University of Berne for Applied Sciences.