

**DI**  
**Gerald Steindlegger**

Waxenberg 14a/4  
4182 Waxenberg  
AUSTRIA  
gerald@steindlegger-iss.com  
Tel: +43 (0)664 922 4906

**Date of Birth:** 10 May 1963  
**Nationality:** Austrian

## Special Skills

- Proven record on **strong leadership** including **overall responsibility and executive and strategic lead** of large international teams, organisations, programmes and projects.
- Multiyear **collaboration with scientific partner organisations** including IIASA, the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO), the WWF science hub, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU), the Austrian Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape (BFW) and long-lasting working-relationship with scientists from numerous (science-based) organisations with the objective to **strengthen the science-policy and science-private sector interface**.
- More **than 25-year experience on high-level international policy engagements**, building strategic relationships with key stakeholders across governments, international organizations, academia, and civil society.
- **Management and facilitation** of Science/Governments, Science/Stakeholder, Science/Business processes.
- Long-lasting collaboration with the **private and finance sector** on transforming business pathways towards sustainable practises.
- In-depth **technical expertise on IIASA programmes** such as on biodiversity, natural resource management, climate, (renewable) energy and poverty reduction.
- Excellent **networks and strong partnerships** with major stakeholders from governments (e.g. Germany, Austria, Indonesia, Brazil), intergovernmental organisations (e.g. UNFCCC (REDD+), UNCBD, UNEP, FAO, WORLD BANK, the GEF), civil society organisations (CAN, WWF, TNC, Greenpeace, etc.), the private sector and research (e.g. IUFRO, IIASA, SLU Future Forests etc.).
- Strong understanding of **geo-political context** and **experience to lead and work in large and diverse teams**.
- **Work experience in more than 45 countries** including Europe, LA, NA, Asia, Africa.
- **Excellent communication** skills on different social, political and corporate levels with sensitivity to cultural diversity
- In depth **media experience** through dozens of press conferences, radio-interviews, talk-shows, articles
- Languages: **English – excellent**; German – mother tongue
- Advanced **university degree in Forestry**, with a master in forest policy and **Management Trainings** at the IMD, Lausanne.

## Professional Experience

7/13-today

### Founder, ISS Integrated Sustainability Solutions

- **Portfolio:** Strategies, policy and advocacy, stakeholder engagement, project development and supervision, fund-raising, analysis & reports, training and education, conference design and facilitation.
- **Focus topics:** Sustainable business and finance, SDGs, forests, forest and climate change policy, rural development, integrated land-use, protected areas, renewable energy, biodiversity, landscape approach, landscape restoration.

#### PROJECTS:

**Government of Austria (BMLFUW).** Developing the Project "My forests in times of climate change". Capacity building for 2100 communities and 150.000 small forest owners on Climate Smart Forest Management. (16-22)

**IIASA.** Advisor to the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

- Co-leading the development and implementation of the Cool Forests at risk Initiative/Conference (IBFRA18) to highlight the critical role of boreal and mountain ecosystems for people, bioeconomy, and climate. (18)
- Providing advice to the RESTORE+ project on Forest Landscape Restoration carried out in Brazil and Indonesia. (17)
- Provide advise to the development of a wood in construction campaign, draft title: "Wood shelter for Climate, People and Nature". 24-25

**IUFRO.** Advisor to the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (14-24).

- General strategy for the IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress. Developing the Stakeholder Dialogues "Science meets Stakeholder" and "Science meets Business". (16-17)
- Co-planning and moderation of the XXV IUFRO World Congress in Curitiba, Brazil. (19)
- Developing a fundraising strategy.

**MONDI/IUFRO.** Development and advisor to the "Teaming up for Forests" Science-Business Platform. (19-24)

**AMAG.** (Austria Metall AG), (16-25). Development and implementation of an integrates restoration strategy of the AMAG industrial area and the AMAG forest enterprise.

**KPMG.** Planning and moderation of the Think Tank Meeting "EU-Taxonomy Regulation: How can business contribute to global sustainability challenges?" (21)

**ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organisation).** Prepare and submit improved draft concept notes of the three Programmatic Lines; "LSSC", "Biodiversity in productive forest landscapes", and "Landscape restoration and resilient livelihoods". (19)

**WWF Germany.** Forest Landscape Restoration. A strategic outlook. (17)

**FSC Germany.** Moderating the Stakeholder Dialogue for the Controlled Wood Standard in Austria. (16/17)

**FAO.** Advisor. (15-16)

- Development of the policy brief "Foresters call for action: future land management needs better integration of sectors. Recommendations from the XIV world forestry congress (WFC)".
- Provide advise on the formulation on the official outcome documents of the XIV World Forestry Congress (e.g. Durban Declaration, Message to UNFCCC and SDG, Youth Commitment for Change).
- Developing the strategy for the youth engagement at the World Forestry Congress and mobilize resources for youth.
- Advise on stakeholder engagement prior and during the WFC.
- Development of a mentoring programme as a legacy of the congress.

**SLU** (Swedish University), Future Forest Programme, 14/15. International Positioning of the Future Forest Programme.

**BOKU University.** Preparation and moderation of the Stakeholder Dialogue within the COST Action FP1403 'NNEXT' Non-native tree species for European forests - Experiences, Risks and Opportunities. (18)

**EFI (European Forest Institute).** XVIII IBFRA Science Conference – Post Conference Activities. (21)

**EUSTAFOR,** 5/15, Provide strategic Input on Management of land-use conflicts.

**GEMEINDE OBERNEUKIRCHEN,** (14/15). Provide strategic Input and carry out activities for the regional climate and energy initiative.

**CITY OF VIENNA,** 6/14-8/15. Positioning the Smart City Vienna in international dialogue and processes (e.g. UNFCCC) related to the Climate Smart City Initiative.

**LAND OBERÖSTERREICH.** Moderating the drinking water stakeholder dialogue in Upper Austria (2016), Land OÖ.

**Others.**

**8/12 – 7/13****CEO, WWF Austria**

- Overall responsibility and **executive and strategic lead** including programme, fundraising, marketing, communication, corporate partnerships, finance, HR
- Supervising **60 staff, 13 Mill €** budget

**7/10 – 7/12****Policy Director, Forest & Climate, WWF International**

- Leading **REDD+ policy** development and advocacy in forest and climate relevant international fora. Advocacy work and REDD+ delegation lead at the UNFCCC COP 16 and 17 in Mexico (2010) and SA (2011)
- Leading and coordinating **international policy** work of teams across the WWF network. Priority regions/countries: Amazon, SE-Asia, Central Africa, US, Europe, Japan)
- Member of the **FSC Forest Carbon Working Group**: Co-developing a Strategic Framework for an FSC Climate Change Engagement

**6/06 – 6/10****Manager Forest Programme, WWF International**

- **Co-ordination, development and advocacy of WWF Network positions** related to sustainable management and the conservation of forests
- Leader of **WWF's Global Protected Area Initiative**
- Member of the **CBD's Consortium Friends of PoWPA** (Programme of Work on Protected Areas)
- Designing and leading a campaign on a **Zero Net Deforestation Target/Campaign**. At CBD COP 9 in Germany 67 Ministers, the EC and other relevant organisations signed support for the target
- Member of the **advisory board to the XIII World Forestry Congress** and co-ordinating WWF team. 850 international media coverage
- Project Supervisor of the **DGIS TMF project "Poverty Reduction through Improved Natural Resource Management"** (Zambia, Lao PDR, Bhutan, Ecuador, Peru. Total: € 6,4 Mill.)
- **Forest Programme focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**. Development and co-implementation (in closed cooperation with global NGO coalition) of capacity building workshops for approx. 50 countries in Asia and Africa on Master Plans for the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas
- Carrying out **Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessments** in Turkey and Romania through applying WWF's RAPPAM and the World Bank Tracking tool
- F4L contact person for **UNESCO / World Heritage**.

Development of protected area financing mechanism through sustainable tourism (Argentina, Romania, Montenegro)

- **HCV Resource Network, Member of the board.** Strengthening the HCVF Resource Network, co-writing the HCVF brochure, building strong partnerships (e.g. Sveaskog), supervising HCV assessments, carrying out HCV capacity trainings,
- Developing and lobbying positions for the **MCPFE (Forest Europe) conference in Warsaw**, Nov. 2007. Presentation of WWF positions on priorities (e.g. deforestation, biomass, and forests & freshwater) in a plenary of 46 Pan-European ministers
- International key account for the development of a **WWF/MONDI partnership**. Draft partnership agreement including technical based collaboration and sponsoring elements developed

1/03 – 6/06

#### Forest Conservation Co-ordinator, WWF European Forest Programme

- **Providing technical and policy support for European Priority Eco-regions** (e.g. Danube Carpathian Programme, Turkey, Caucasus). Protected Area Management, NATURA 2000, High Conservation Value Areas.
- Developing and implementing several **World Bank projects** with a focus on protected areas, high conservation value forests and public private partnerships. (Turkey, Romania, Croatia)
- Initializing and co-developing a **USAID tender** "Good governance in the Romanian forestry sector: Improving sustainability and competitiveness by strengthening supportive market and legal mechanisms through public/private partnerships." Total: € 1.259.000. Outcome: Project approved 2006
- Preparation of WWFs policy input and media work for the **4<sup>th</sup> MCPFE in Vienna 2003**
- **Member of the Advisory Board of the International Master Programme** "Management of Protected Areas" (University of Klagenfurt)

7/97 – 3/05

#### Team Leader Forest Programme, WWF Austria

- **Supervisor** of WWF's Austria forest team (4 staff)
- Development of the **Austrian Forest and Trade Network** and the first FSC certification in Austria
- **Developing Partnerships with the private sector.** LaFarge, VISA Austria, Austrian Airlines, Austrian Railways, ÖBF AG, etc.
- **Ex Ante evaluation of the EU Rural Development Plans** in co-operation with the European Policy Office
- Lobbying on the **FLEGT process**. Austria improved to 2nd

highest scoring country of all EU 25

- Active participation in **developing a Natura 2000 network with a focus on forests**. (Designation, Management, Financing, Stakeholder dialogues)
- Development of the **Austrian/German transboundary EC – LIFE Nature project** “Hang- und Schluchtwälder im Oberen Donautal” in co-operation with the federal governments of Upper-Austria and Bavaria. Project volume: Euro 5 million

**2002**

### **Campaign Leader – Alpine Wilderness, WWF Austria**

- Design, implementation and supervision **of the Alpine Wilderness campaign**

**93 - 97**

### **Consultancy Work on Natural Resources**

- Development of a forest education programme for the City of Vienna
- Writer of forest conservation articles in various conservation and forest media
- Project work for “Integrated Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems” for the Federal Environment Agency Austria
- Technical advisor for a forest protection initiative in Austria “Kuratorium Rettet den Wald” (NGO)
- Field work for a network of bioindicators (BIN) for the State Administration of Upper Austria
- Biomass analysis for the State Administration of Styria

**96 - 02**

### **Private Enterprise “Blauwerk” (Sports Equipment)**

- Co-founder and board member ([www.blauwerk.com](http://www.blauwerk.com))
- Co-design, production and worldwide distribution (>25 countries) of the “best foldable kick scooter on the market” ([www.blueriverbikes.com](http://www.blueriverbikes.com))

**99 - 15**

### **Mountain and Ski-Mountaineering Guide**

(Worldwide license, recognised by the International Federation of Mountain Guide Associations, UIAGM)

- Team building projects for companies
- Climbing and ski-touring expeditions with guests in the European Alps

## Publications

### Writer or Co-writer

- Dozens of international technical background and policy position papers on forests, climate change, protected areas, biodiversity and natural resource relevant for international processes such as the UNFCCC, the CBD, UNFF and Forest Europe.
- The global Role of Forests for avoiding dangerous Climate Change (ISS, 2022)
- EUSTAFOR General Assembly: Increasing Land Use Conflicts on State Forest Management Areas – Shared Problems, Concepts and Experiences for Coping Strategies. (2015)
- FAOs recommendations from the XIV world forestry congress. Foresters call for action: Future land management needs better integration of sectors. (2015)
- Living Forest Report (WWF, 2011)
- HCVF in theory and practise (WWF, 2007)
- Utilisation of Forest Biomass in Austria (WWF, 2006)
- RAPPAM (Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management) Methodology implementation in Romania: Key findings and results. (WWF 2006)
- Implementation of RAPPAM (Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management) methodology in Turkey: Key findings and results. (2005)
- Knappes Gut Land (ÖBF, 2014)
- Dead Wood – Living Forests (WWF, 2004)
- Designation, Implementation and Financing of the Natura 2000 network in Forested Areas (WWF, 2004)
- State of Europes Forest Protection (WWF, 2003)
- Mapping the Alps (Mountain Watch 2002)
- Counting on the Forest (WWF, 2001/02)
- European Forest Scorecards (WWF, 2000)
- Threatened Tree Species (WWF, 1997)
- Forest Soil in Danger, (KRDW, 1995)

## Voluntary and Philanthropic Work

- 87-96**            **Environmental officer**, Austrian Alpine Club, Linz
- 91-92**            **Civil Service:** Community service for the disabled elderly (Österreichische Lebenshilfe)
- 85-87**            Self – initiated awareness raising tour through Austria with the slideshow “**Forests in Danger**”

## University Education

### **University of Natural Resources, Vienna (BOKU)**

- Diploma in Forestry (Forst- u. Holzwirtschaft); Specialisation and final thesis in Forest Policy (1995)
- Extracurricular exams: Hydrobiology; Environmental aspects of the forest industry

### **IMD Business School Lausanne**

- *Leading at the Top* Management Training