

Scientific meeting between a German delegation and the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment

March 2, 2020 (Mon) 10:00-12:00 am, a German delegation, consisting of the ECU-MAES partners and German scientists and researchers, visited the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE in Spanish initials) to discuss ways to support the establishment of sustainable forest policies in the future through the project. From MAE, more than 10 related officials, including M.Sc. Jessica Chávez - Director of Biodiversity Dep. - and Dr. Diego Inclán - Director of the Biodiversity Research Institute (INABIO in Spanish initials) - were attending this meeting.



Prof. Dr. Christine Fürst and Dr. Janina Kleemann from Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, presented the outline and direction of the project, and six experts in biodiversity and ecosystem services presented various joint research topics between Ecuador and Germany as follows:

- ✓ Disease ecology in insects – Dr. Christoph Kurze
- ✓ General zoology – Dr. Belinda Kahnt
- ✓ Vascular epiphytes – Dr. Glenda Mendieta-Leiva
- ✓ Vegetal ecology – Prof. Isabell Hensen
- ✓ Terrestrial ferns – Dr. Marcus Lehnert
- ✓ Evolution and Recruitment of the Arctic flora – Dr. Matthias Hoffmann



Director Chávez expressed that she is very interested in this research that is mapping and evaluating ecosystem services at national level in Ecuador for the first time. MAE believes that the results of this research will be useful in establishing policies related to the designation of new conservation areas, implementation of direct payment systems, and sustainable use of natural resources in the future by promoting and training ecosystem services provided by ecosystems and biodiversity. Of course, we believe that this research will be the cornerstone of joint research between Germany and Ecuador in the conservation sector and will continue to discuss the research topics proposed by the delegation.’.



by Jin Kyoung Noh, Photos by Pablo Cuenca