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Leipzig, 23.02.25

Letter of Recommendation for Prof. Tomas Václavík, PhD

I am delighted to express my strong support for Prof. Tomas Václavík, PhD, who is seeking promotion to Full Professorship at Olomouc University.

Dr. Václavík joined my team, the Department for Computational Landscape Ecology at UFZ in Leipzig, in 2011. He became the lead scientist of the team implementing the project GLUES “Global Assessment of Land Use Dynamics, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Ecosystem Services”, funded within the Sustainable Land Management program as part of the research for sustainable development (FONA, www.fona.de) by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

With that exceptionally large funding measure, we not only provided support to twelve international projects studying the interactions between land management, climate change, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in regional case studies (e.g. Russia, China, Brazil, Europe, Madagascar, South Africa,...), we also sought to conduct synthesis and research on the global scale. Our research activities aimed to contribute to the development and implementation of practical solutions for global and regional challenges of land management. We develop new perspectives on the responsible use of scarce land resources.

With this interdisciplinary and international team of scientists, Prof. Václavík's great success was establishing and advancing internationally recognized research. Soon, he was leading the scientific synthesis activities of the research team, co-supervising 4 PhD Students, conducting excellent own research projects, and providing substantial input to the management and coordination of the entire team.

This underscores Tomas' dedication and expertise, driven by his high-quality standards and strategic insight. He had and has a clear academic vision and applied landscape ecological methods and tools to derive tangible results and products.

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In addition to his academic achievements, Dr. Václavík has played a pivotal role in the UFZ community, contributing not only to its scientific mission but also nurturing the growth of emerging scholars. I am confident that his dedication and expertise will positively impact students and early career researchers at Olomouc University.

From his C.V., I depict that he continued this productivity and creativity after transitioning to Palacký University, Olomouc. He served in multiple Ph.D. committees, supervised an enormous number of M.Sc. theses, received the Dean's Award for excellent publication success, served as a reviewer in various journals, and acquired (as a team member) successfully various third-party projects. His performance in all facets of academia is excellent.

As a professor of Landscape Ecology and Resource Economics at the Institute of Geosciences and Geography at MLU, I'm more than certain that Dr. Václavík's promotion to full professorship will contribute to the academic standing of the Department of Ecology & Environmental Sciences in the Faculty of Science of Palacký University. It would advance its interdisciplinary nature.

I have met many bright people during my career, and Dr. Václavík is at the top of that pile. Nearly every day, I was wondering how I got lucky enough to collaborate with him and to further develop the research strategy of our research. He did the work of more than two people. He is bright, creative, energetic, ambitious, chock full of ideas, and has a strong work ethic.

Dr. Václavík, thus, has my highest recommendation. I wholeheartedly recommend him for promotion to a full professor. His international experience and recognition make him an outstanding candidate, and I am convinced he will continue to excel in her academic journey.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Ralf Seppelt
Head of Research Unit Ecosystems of the Future
Co-Head of the Department for Landscape Ecology