

## **Prof. Dr. Christian Opp**

(Professor of Physical Geography, Head of Working Group Hydro-Geography and Soil Geography)

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### **Scientific Interest**

- Hydrology (Basic and Applied Hydrology, lake and river catchment analyses)
- Desertification and desertification processes,
- Water Management in dryland areas
- Sand and dust storms, dune formation, dust deposition monitoring, and SDS effects
- Environmental analysis of water bodies and soils
- Soil Science (Basic and Applied Soil Science, soil degradations, soil protection)
- Public awareness and soil education
- Public awareness and water bodies
- Protected Areas (abiotic-biotic interactions, environmental monitoring)

### **Regional Research Experience**

- Germany
- Russia (especially South Siberia, Lake Baikal Region, Tuva, Altai)
- Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Xinjiang)
- Iran

- China (especially NW-, N, E-China)
- Mongolia

## Curriculum Vitae

**Name** Prof. Dr. Christian Opp

**Day of birth:** 21. March 1954

**Place of birth:** Steinheidel-Erlabrunn

### Studies:

1975-79 Geography, Russian language and literature, University of Halle; 08/1977-07/1978 University of Woronesh

1979 Diploma "The Woronesh School of Anthropogenic Landscape Research"

**PhD:** 1982 Dr. rer. nat., Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, University of Halle

"The development of the catena-concept, with special consideration to catena-processes"

**Habilitation:** 1997 Dr. rer. nat. habil., Faculty of Physics and Geo-Sciences, University of Leipzig

"Geographical approaches for analyzing soil degradations and their diagnosis in the landscape (pedological, geo-ecological, geographical, and landscape-ecological approaches for environmental research)"

### Jobs/Position:

1982-85 Scientific Assistant, chair for Physical Geography (Prof. Dr. H. Richter), Halle

1985-91 Head of the Working Group "Geo-ecological analysis", Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Academy of Science (Prof. Dr. G. Haase), Leipzig

1991 Scientific Consultant "Geography of Europe", Institute of Regional Geography, Leipzig

1991-93 Project-Leader "Re-Formation of the Institute of Geography, University of Leipzig", KAI, Berlin

1994-98 Project-Leader "Re-Formation of the Institute of Geography", Institute of Geo-Physics and Geology, Institute of Geography, University of Leipzig

since 1999 Professor for Physical Geography, Head of Working Group Hydrology & Soil Science, Faculty of Geography, Philipps-Universität Marburg (University of Marburg)

2002-04 Dean of the Faculty of Geography, University of Marburg

since 2008      Honorary Professor of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Science  
2012-14        Dean of the Faculty of Geography, University of Marburg  
2014-2020      Head of PhD-Promotion Council  
since 04/2020 retired

**Activities:**

Organizer of International Conferences, for example:

Second Central Asian DUst Conference (CADUC-2), which took place in Nukus (Aral Sea Region), Uzbekistan, 14-22 April 2024.

Guest Editor for Special Issues of international peer-reviewed journals, for example:

Applied Science

Sustainability

**Co-Editor:**

Marburger Geographische Schriften

**Member of Editorial Board:**

Basic and Applied Dryland Research

Hydrometeorology and Ecology

Geography and Tourism

**Selected Past Projects:**

- Regularities of soil distribution and soil degradation in the Uvs-Nuur Basin (Mongolia, Tyva) (Sponsor: DFG)
- Soil degradation, salinization and desertification in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan (Sponsor: DAAD)
- Desertification and sustainable land use in Rayalaseema (South India) (Sponsor: Studienstiftung)
- Retrospective and prospective analyses of sustainable development on Soqotra (Yemen) (Sponsor: DFG)
- Monitoring dust storms by remote sensing imagery and ground data in the frame of EU research frame work CALTER ("Long Term Ecological Research Program for Monitoring Aeolian Soil Erosion in Central Asia"); (Sponsor: EU)

- Monitoring dust and dust effects on land use in Central Asia – an LUCA PhD project; (Sponsor: VW Foundation)
- Vegetation and soil response to water diversion on the lower Tarim River, Xinjiang, China; (Sponsor: Robert Bosch Foundation)
- Water quality and quantity problems in the transboundary Zarafshon River Basin – capacity building and research for sustainability (WAZA CARE); (Sponsor: BMBF, DLR)
- and other projects

**Selected Recent Projects:**

- Aral Sea Syndrome – Cause effect mechanisms in Central Asia, Iran, China. Sponsor: University of Marburg
- Integrated Water Resource Management in transboundary catchments. Sponsor: DAAD
- Monitoring of dust and sand storm depositions in South-West Iran. Sponsor: Oil-Ministry, Oil Transportation Pipeline Co, Department of Research and Technology in Iran
- Morphology and activities of sand dunes in Iran – Wind Erosion Assessment in Sistan Plain (East Iran) using WEPS. Sponsor: Jihad-Agriculture Ministry in Iran, Research Institute Forest & Rangelands, Teheran
- Microplastic in floodplain soils – determination, behaviour and interactions with heavy metals. Sponsor: Philipps-Universität Marburg, Ministry of Environment, Hesse
- Cause-Effect Mechanisms and Spatial-Temporal Pattern of High Contamination and Salinity Levels in the Shatt-Al-Arab River, Southern Iraq, Analyzed by Physico-Chemical, Isotopic and Statistical Methods. Sponsor: DAAD
- Systematic survey of salty water influence on soils and on vegetation in the Werra river floodplain. Comparison of methods for the determination and quantification of both sodium and magnesium influenced changes of the soil structure. Sponsor: Philipps-Universität Marburg & Hessisches Landesamt für Natur, Umwelt und Geologie