

Curriculum Vitae

Pieter Baas (1944) is Emeritus Professor of Systematic Botany at Leiden University and was until 2005 the Director of the National Herbarium of the Netherlands and of the National Research School Biodiversity, uniting all research groups and institutes for biosystematics and Biodiversity in the Netherlands. His own research focuses on comparative wood anatomy, analyzing the evolutionary, ecological, biomechanical, physiological and phylogenetic significance of the stunning diversity patterns in microscopic wood structure of trees, shrubs and lianas. As a director of the National Herbarium of the Netherlands he was a focal point of the Global Taxonomy Initiative of the CBD for the Netherlands and an active member of the Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF) that successfully initiated major EU programmes such as ENBI, Synthesys and EDIT. The National Herbarium of the Netherlands curates a collection of six million dried plant specimens, that are crucial for taxonomic studies and conservation of the flora's of North Western Europe, SE Asia (the Malesian region in particular), Tropical West Africa, and the Guianas in the Neotropics. Open access to these collections was increasingly achieved through innovative digitization projects during his directorship. Throughout his career he has emphasized the European obligations of supporting research on tropical Biodiversity and training taxonomists from developing countries.