

August 2019



Thomas Rosswall

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Rosswall got his MSc in microbiology at the University of Uppsala and was appointed Associate Professor of Soil Ecology and Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden.

Rosswall has been instrumental in the development of microbial ecology, both nationally and internationally. His work on carbon and nitrogen cycling has ranged from microcosm studies to the globe and has been able to link deep process understanding to modeling efforts of entire systems at different scales. In this capacity he was centrally involved in the planning and coordination of ecosystem studies in tundra, forest and agricultural systems, in temperate and tropical ecosystems. He has published over 100 refereed scientific papers and edited 12 books.

As a science administrator, he has worked to promote international scientific collaboration that benefits society. The work has focused on bringing together relevant natural and social sciences disciplines in addressing the complex interactions of ecological and social systems. His efforts also include linking scientists in the North to those in the South as well as to stimulate South-South collaboration.

He retired in 2009 as Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU), Paris, France. Formerly he has been Director of the International Foundation for Science (IFS), President/Rector of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Director of the International START Secretariat, Executive Director of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and Professor of Water in Nature and Society at the Universities of Stockholm and Linköping, Sweden.

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He is an elected member of six learned societies, including the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, Academia Europaea and the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

Thomas Rosswall was Chair of the Independent Science Panel for the CGIAR Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS; 2009-2014) and the Executive Committee of the Mistra Council for Evidence-based Environmental Management (Mistra EviEM) at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences until September 2015. He was Chair of the Remote Sensing Committee of the National Swedish Space Board until the end of 2016 and Board of Mistra Urban Futures at Chalmers University of Technology (2014-2017). He was Vice-Chair of the Swedish Infrastructure of Ecosystem Science (SITES; 2013-2017)

In recent years he has also chaired a review of Norwegian climate research and a review of Formas Formel Exc grants. In 2015 he reviewed the achievements of SLU within its policy for global development.

He was Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) (2016-2019). He is a member of the FAO Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), the science-policy interface of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). He is also a member of the International Committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He also serves on the TWAS Membership Advisory Committee on Biological Systems & Organisms. He serves on the European Science Foundation College of Expert Reviewers.