A WORD FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Based on the biodiversity assessment, monitoring and management activities from the last century, activities which reveal the fact that the extinct rates from one major taxonomic group to another vary between 100 to 1000 times higher than in all the past geological periods, much has been debated on the biodiversity loss trend, expectations and strategies.

If the biodiversity loss trend continues like in the last century, it is obvious that the next human generations will have a restricted access to biodiversity resources, which can offer solutions in respect to our basic needs.

Biological diversity, biodiversity or the degree of variation of life (genetic variation, species or ecosystem diversity) represents the core of the ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. Among the goods and services offered are: food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water, climate regulation, natural disaster mitigation, etc., these being the basis for a sustainable economic development.

Around the world, biodiversity is severely and continuously threatened by human activities, species being exterminated directly through human activities (hunting, collection, persecution), but mostly indirectly, through habitat modification or even destruction, as a consequence, the biodiversity loss and the economic and social associated losses became world wide international top concerns and priorities.

In this context, biodiversity protection and the protection of the ecosystem services it provides, as the heart of sustainable development, need various and numerous programmes, which should include conservation objectives too.

In 2010, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period of 2011-2020 was adopted, representing's a coordinated and sustained response by governments and the United Nations system to the on-going loss of biodiversity.

As far as the connections between the biodiversity values, ecological functions and the economic and social basic needs are extremely complex, the need for fundamental and applied research is still very high and should be encouraged.