

## **PREFACE**

Biological diversity (short: Biodiversity) comprises three interconnected levels of diversity that comprise: The diversity of ecosystems, The diversity of species, The genetic diversity within species. In the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) biological diversity is defined as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, *inter alia*, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part: this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems” while “biological resources includes genetic resources, organisms or parts thereof, populations, or any other biotic component of ecosystems with actual or potential use or value for humanity” (CBD, 1992).

From an anthropocentric perspective biodiversity and biological resources are crucial for livelihood and the quality of life of the human being. A politically important aspect in the definition of “biological resources” by the CBD is the reference to the “potential use or value”. With exception of the biological resources we are already relying upon we, however, are ignorant when, which other biological resources will be of “use or value” to us in the future. It is precisely therefore that we should focus on protecting whole ecosystems and biodiversity at large. The pressure on biodiversity emanating from our increasingly globalized world economy can be absorbed most efficiently by transnational initiatives and collaborative policies.

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In this context we bring to the readers and the general public the Special Issue as a scientific contribution to close the year of 2018 and, thank you all for the prestige in sharing in Biodiversity.

Best regards

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