

## **Abstract – Rik Leemans talk on the 2010 target**

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Land use change is evident in most of our surroundings. Looking at places where we grow up, inhabit the possibility to reflect this most personally. Biodiversity in this context is the living component of the underlying ecosystem, essential for its functioning. Changes in biodiversity patterns due to human action therefore results in severe ecosystem disturbances. To translate this important fact to policy makers, simplified (easily understandable), well defined, policy relevant, quantified (significant must be apparent) indicators are needed. But different communities have different expectations. A well structured, scientifically credible hierarchical indicator framework, where indicators are sorted and put into relation, may be a feasible way to satisfy this need.

Ecosystems as capital assets can be better understood through there ecosystem functions. These can be ethical motivated, cultural, ecological or economical and play an important role for human survival, relying essentially on biological diversity. Considering this, it seems to be contradicting that only 10% of the land surface is protected. A well defined management of unprotected areas should therefore be additionally promoted.

In conclusion, clearly defined concepts, conceptualizing relationships, integrated approaches and well defined indicators for assessing biodiversity and harbouring ecosystem services are essential for a successful communication to policy progress.

In the later discussion first the graph of biodiversity loss was focused. Martin S. answered related questions (e.g. what is a significant reduce, what is the status, where is the starting point) by relating the graph to an airplane over cloudy Alps loosing altitude, given different information by the pilot. At the end a rather pessimistic atmosphere concerning policy implementation was alleviated by Rik Leemans telling some success stories (e.g. coastal areas, forests, South Africa). Nevertheless he stated that still lot has to be achieved, not only inside ecosystems and protected areas, but also outside.

The final statement in the discussion was given by Wolfgang Cramer, pointing out the following academic goals concerning biodiversity loss: Who are the different drivers, how do they function and how can they be put together? Life is governed by institutions and policy makers – therefore they need to be included! What we want is conservation and in order to achieve that, we need to identify the biological, economic and political part in it and make terms clear for legal und political systems.