



## Our Natural Capital

The article in this issue “*Biodiversity and ecotourism: Impacts of habitat disturbance on an endangered bird species in Madagascar*” serves as a reminder that habitat loss, habitat fragmentation, habitat degradation and habitat disturbance still constitute the main threats to biodiversity conservation throughout the world. There are now very few intact landscapes left on earth. The few that remain in the north of the northern hemisphere in the Old and the New World are under ever increasing threats from industrial development and resource extraction. It is in these still intact landscapes that biodiversity conservation planners need to be proactive in the development of scientifically sound comprehensive Conservation Area Designs (CADs), that not only consider the areas that need protection, but also the compatible activities in the intervening matrix.

Alien and invasive species are the ever increasing secondary threat to biodiversity. However, to date, there is a general lack of data on the tempo and mode of biological invasions across most taxa. The article we include herein “*Introduced Willows can become invasive pests - Australia*” thus contributes to this void. It is a reminder that there is still too little attention given to aliens and invasives by regulatory agencies, and those promoting free trade activities.

Finally, Peter Kevan’s contribution “*The Global decline of pollination services*” draws attention to what Gretchen Daily in her 1997 book *Nature’s Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems* calls “*The Impending Pollination Crisis*”. Pollination is one of the many ecosystem services, the conditions and processes through which natural ecosystems, and the species that make them up, sustain and fulfil human life. It is sobering to realize that the total value of ecosystem services and natural capital have been estimated to average some \$33.3 trillion annually! Yet they are frequently forgotten.

Constanza, R. et al. 1997. The Value of the World’s Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital. *Nature* 387:253-261.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G.G.E. Scudder'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light background.

G.G.E. Scudder  
Senior Editor

# Goals of *Biodiversity:*

*To publish articles on  
current research in  
biodiversity*

*To deliver information  
on all life forms and  
their roles in the life-  
sustaining systems  
on Earth*

*To bring awareness,  
understanding and  
appreciation of all life  
forms and their roles in  
the life-sustaining  
systems on Earth*

*To provide an  
international forum on  
matters concerning the  
integrity and wellness  
of ecosystems and the  
environment*

***Biodiversity***  
is indexed by Biosis,  
Cambridge  
Scientific Abstracts,  
Environment Abstracts,  
and Zoological Record.

