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F E D E R A T I O N

Library of Experience

I. PERSONAL INTRODUCTION: *Who are you and what do you do?*

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- M.Sc. – Landscape Ecology and Management
- Running private consultancy on the natural resources use (2014-ongoing)
- Coordinator of development aid projects at Krkonose Mts. National Park (2014- ongoing)
- Coordinator of the EUROPARC Central and Eastern Europe Section (2015-2018)
- Director General for Nature Conservation at the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (2013- early 2014)
- Deputy Director at the Czech Nature Conservation Agency (2005-2013)

II. TOP 10 QUESTIONS: *Please share with us your experience*

1. What is your earliest memory of enjoying or feeling connected to nature?

Our family orchard in the small village where I spent most of my summer holidays. Imagine to lie alone in the net between trees, to hear nothing and only perceive/see slowly moving clouds on the sky for a very long time. Harmony between nature and man, between real nature and manmade nature (orchards and fields around).

2. Was there an incident, or situation in your life that inspired you into the field of work you now do?

I graduated in horticulture, and studied that topic for 7 years (incl. high school). I thought it is something that connects me to the nature, and it was partially correct. Nevertheless, later during the university studies I recognized how limited topic it is. In other words, horticulture is 'only' a part of the agriculture production based on clear processes, fertilizers, green houses etc. It means I did not see enough creativity and space for me there and started studying ecology. And that is creative enough, sometimes too much.

Another incident that pushed me to the nature conservation was that I started beekeeping when I was 18. To work with bees is very natural experience. One bee is a weak individual meanwhile a swarm of bees is an intelligent entity, an alive organism you never know what it will do... So similar to us

3. What book, or article, painting, photograph or TV or radio programme would you say has influenced you most in your work?

Many, there is no particular one. I read technical literature because I must (and sometimes it is even interesting ;). Besides that, I love both poetry and prose. It all inspires me in my work and the life, no clear borderline in between. I am less and less interested in the TV.

4. What person has influenced or inspired you most in your work and why?

Czech expert Igor Míchal, one of fathers of a terrestrial ecological network concept. He was my mentor for few years when I started my carrier. Person full of knowledge, natural leader and strong opinion maker. His best works were made when he had serious health problems. Then he overpowered his physical weakness and had a great professional performance as an expert and author of few excellent books that are still the core of the technical literature in Czechia.

5. What advice would you give to your 20 year old self?

Keep the direction though it might seem senseless sometimes. It will bring fruit later. You even do not need to believe in that every minute or still to feel a motivation inside of you. We are humans and we are naturally led by feelings, but finally we have to decide by human reason using our intellect. Otherwise we 'only' like animals.

6. What 3 words would you say to give advice to young people wishing to come into your area of work?

- a) Willpower combined with stamina
- b) Motivation
- c) Communicativeness

7. What is the most fun thing about your work?

There is no any fun in my work! It is very serious what we do because we safe the World (even against the rest of the community)! The funniest thing is that a lot of my colleagues believe it...

8. What are the hardest thing to overcome and how have you achieved this

Loss of motivation because of various reasons. In such moment, I just continue in my work waiting for new impulses. They always come, sooner or later. It would be mistake to stop everything and wait without doing nothing.

9. What motivates you to continue?

People around me, shared vision(s), jointly achieved results.

10. What do you want your legacy to be?

It is too soon to think about it. I just try to be useful.
