Microbes have greater biomass and genetic diversity than all other organisms on the planet – they are the unseen majority. Plants are intimately dependent on them, and without microbes life would not exist. So should we care if microbes become extinct? Some may adhere to the BaasBecking idea that all microbes are everywhere – the environment selects, and would therefore say that the risk of extinction is negligible. However, this idea is demonstrably not true, so microbial conservation is important, yet in mainstream conservation journals only 2% of papers relate to microbes, and then often to those which pose a threat to macro-organisms. In this talk I will give examples of threatened microbes, especially fungi, and consider the difficulties facing microbial conservation and progress towards getting microbes on an equal footing with plants and animals in the conservation agenda.