

REFERENCE: SCBD/EDM/HZ/40686

7 January 2004

NOTIFICATION**Workshop on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Prior to COP-7
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Saturday, 7 February 2004**

Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that a Workshop on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Review of the Draft Chapters and Discussion of the Methods and Tools to the Issues of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity shall be organized prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-7) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Saturday, 7 February 2004 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC); venue of COP-7. The United Nations University (UNU) has graciously offered to cover the Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for one day for forty (40) eligible delegates to participate in the Workshop. The official invitation letter is attached herewith.

Delegates wishing to avail themselves of this financial support should directly register with Ms. Habiba Gitay, the Millennium Assessment Capacity Building Coordinator at email: gitay@millenniumassessment.org with a copy to the CBD Secretariat at email: secretariat@biodiv.org.

In the event that your officially designated country representative funded by the CBD Secretariat shall also benefit from the financial support provided by the UNU, kindly ensure that he/she must contact Mr. Nader Ibrahim (email: nadir@atmki.com, tel.: (613) 234-6797 Ext. 301, fax: (613) 233-7813) at the Travel Agency MKI and Conference Management Inc. which is handling the travel arrangements for the CBD Secretariat in respect of COP-7 and COP/MOP-1 meetings, so that his/her travel arrangements are processed accordingly.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: All CBD National Focal Points

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Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

www.millenniumassessment.org | Strengthening Capacity to Manage Ecosystems Sustainably for Human Well-Being

January 5th 2004

Workshop on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA): Review of the Draft Chapters and Discussion of the Methods and Tools to the issues of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Saturday 9:am to 12:30pm, 7 February, 2004, Kuala Lumpur

Venue: Putra World Trade Center

Co-sponsored by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations University

We are pleased to invite you to participate in a Workshop on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) on Saturday 7 February, 2004. The workshop will provide an opportunity for discussion of:

- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework and the assessment approach used in the MA and its links with the ecosystem approach;
- How the assessment could be better focused to meet the needs of the Parties and contribute towards the assessment of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target
- How Parties can participate in the MA review process (the drafts will be available for review by governments on January 12),
- Lessons learned from the MA that could contribute to the COP Ministerial segment theme of “scientific assessments” and COP’s consideration of the thematic areas, in particular inland and coastal wetlands, and protected areas.

The workshop will be held at the site of the COP Meeting (Putra World Trade Center) on Saturday 7 February, 2004.

Further information is provided overleaf.

The United Nations University has kindly offered to cover the extra day’s per diem for 40 delegates from developing countries and countries in transition. Eligible delegates who would like to apply for the per diem must register by emailing Habiba Gitay, the Capacity Building coordinator of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (gitay@millenniumassessment.org) by 23rd January 2004 with the following information: **full name and country represented; full postal address (incl telephone number and fax) and email address.** Other delegates who would like to participate in the workshop (but do not require a per diem) are requested to register by emailing gitay@millenniumassessment.org by 1 February with your name, country and email address.

We look forward to seeing you in Kuala Lumpur.

[signed]

Robert Watson
co-chair of the Millennium
Ecosystem Assessment

A.H. Zakri
co-chair of the Millennium
Ecosystem Assessment

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary of the
CBD

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is an international work program designed to help meet the assessment needs of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the Convention on Migratory Species, as well as needs of other users in the private sector and civil society. The MA focuses on the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for responding to those changes. The MA was launched by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in June 2001. The first drafts of the final assessment reports will be made available for review by governments and experts in early 2004. The documents will undergo two rounds of peer review and the final reports will be available in early 2005. A 60-page synthesis report will be prepared for the Convention on Biodiversity, detailing the findings most relevant to the needs of the Parties to the Convention.

The MA released its report, *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Framework for Assessment*, in September 2003 and copies have been distributed to all CBD focal points and made available at SBSTT-9 in November 2003. This report describes the framework, approach and basic methods being used to assess status and trends in ecosystems, the multiple pressures or drivers causing changes in ecosystems and the services they provide, the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for response to alleviate the pressures.

This workshop will introduce the delegates to the framework, methods and approaches being used and developed in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and explore how those approaches can be applied to the issues of relevance to the CBD. It will also provide delegates with an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the first drafts of the assessment reports. During the first round of review (January 12 to March 22, 2004), governments are being encouraged to focus their review on issues concerning the scope and focus of the assessment reports; in particular, the relevance of the information in the reports to the needs of individual countries, and identification of gaps that, if filled, could enhance the utility of the assessment for governments. The executive summaries of the assessment report chapters will be available at the workshop (Participants are also encouraged to download the full reports on the MA Website after January 12 and review these prior to the workshop).

Discussants, who have been involved in the work of the MA and CBD, will include Hamdallah Zedan, Bob Watson, Walt Reid and Jeff McNeely. Topics to be discussed include:

- The 2010 biodiversity target, the Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
- Overview of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and its Conceptual Framework
- Overview of the review process and introduction to the draft assessment reports, particularly inland waters and coastal wetlands and Protected Areas
- The role of the MA in measuring progress towards the 2010 biodiversity targets
- Putting the Conceptual framework on the ground
- Outline of the MA Synthesis report that will be prepared for the CBD
- Lessons from the MA that could contribute to the COP Ministerial segment theme of “scientific assessments”.
- Future plans -- Discussion on the CBD’s expectations and needs.