

# Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

[www.millenniumassessment.org](http://www.millenniumassessment.org) | Strengthening Capacity to Manage Ecosystems Sustainably for Human Well-Being

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2003

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## **Workshop on the Application of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Methods and Tools to the issues of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

### **Sunday 9 November 2003, Montreal**

We are pleased to invite the SBSTTA delegates to participate in a Workshop on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment on Sunday 9 November 2003. The workshop will focus on issues discussed during the SBSTTA 9. There will be opportunities to discuss the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework, links with the ecosystem approach, and the role of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in contributing towards the assessment of progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. This workshop will also be an important opportunity to ensure that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment addresses some of the assessment needs of the Convention.

The workshop will be held at the site of the SBSTTA Meeting (International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), 999 Rue University, Montreal) on Sunday 9th November 2003 from 9 am till 2 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Further information, including a programme for the workshop is provided later in this note.

The United Nations University has kindly offered to cover the extra day's (Sunday) 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 Ms. Habiba Gitay, the Capacity Building coordinator of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment ([gitay@millenniumassessment.org](mailto:gitay@millenniumassessment.org)) by **24 October 2003** 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](mailto:gitay@millenniumassessment.org) by **31 October 2003** with your name, country and email address.

We look forward to seeing you in Montreal.

signed

Dr Robert Watson  
co-chair of the  
Millennium Ecosystem  
Assessment

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

Mr. Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary of  
the CBD

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***Workshop on the Application of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Methods and Tools to the Issues of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity***

**Sunday 9 November 2003, 9:00am to 14:00  
The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)  
999 Rue University in Montreal. Lunch will be provided**

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is designed to meet some of 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 (more information at <http://www.millenniumassessment.org>).

The MA has recently released its first of its five reports, *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Framework for Assessment*. This report describes the framework, approach and basic methods being used to assess status and trends in ecosystems, the multiple pressures (or drivers, including climate change) 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.

The approach and methods being used by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment have direct relevance for the delegates to the SBTTA of the CBD, CBD being one of the major stakeholders of the MA.

This workshop will introduce the delegates to the framework, methods and approaches being used and developed in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment with particular reference to the Conceptual Framework. The workshop will concentrate on how those approaches can be applied to the issues of relevance to the CBD. Discussants, who have been involved in the work of the MA and CBD, will include Hamdallah Zedan, Bob Watson, Cristian Samper and Jeff McNeely

Topics to be discussed include:

- The 2010 biodiversity target, the Millennium Development Goals and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment -- Opening remarks by Hamdallah Zedan
- Overview of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and its Conceptual Framework
- Local vs global benefits: economic valuation of ecosystem goods and services
- The role of the MA in measuring progress towards the 2010 biodiversity targets
- Putting the Conceptual framework on the ground
- Outline of the MA's "Synthesis Report for the CBD"
- Putting the Ecosystem Approach into practice – Discussion on the application of the MA Conceptual framework in various systems and biomes
- Strategies, interventions and activities for protected areas
- Future plans -- Discussion on the CBD's expectations and needs and the MA draft outcomes