

MAnews

The Newsletter of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



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REVIEWS:

- Sub-global Assessment Report Available for Review

The Sub-global Working Group Assessment Report is now available for comment. This report, the fourth to go out for review, includes information from approximately 20 sub-global assessments, and addresses issues such as multi-scale assessment methodologies, cross-scale interactions, and the use of traditional and local knowledge in an assessment process.

The review process offers a critical opportunity to participate and shape the world's most comprehensive effort to meet the needs of decision-makers and the public for scientific information concerning the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for responding to those changes.

Any interested individual is welcome to submit review comments. Guidelines and a template for submitting comments are available at www.millenniumassessment.org. Please send comments to review@MAreview.org by **December 10, 2004**.

- Global reports complete review

The second review of the reports on Condition and Trends, Scenarios and Responses, was completed last September 26-30 when more than 200 leading authors and review editors gathered in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to address the comments received. Some 1,300 people from 95 countries participate in the preparation of the global reports and in the sub-global assessments (see figure in page 2).

Coming soon: The general synthesis report and the synthesis reports on desertification, wetlands, business and industry and health will be available for review in mid-November. These syntheses consolidate information from all global and sub-global assessment reports.

...continued on page 2 and 4

Southern Africa assessment reports available

Assessment reports from the MA sub-global assessment in southern Africa (SAfMA) are now available. A nested, multi-scale set of assessments undertaken at regional, basin and local levels,



...continued on page 2

MA at IUCN World Conservation Congress

17-24 Nov 2004 Bangkok, Thailand

Join us to discuss the MA at the following events:

18 Nov (Thursday)

14:00-16:00

Plenary session on "Biodiversity Loss & Species Extinction"

(Ground floor, Meeting Room 1 & 2)

- Dr. Walt Reid (USA)
- Professor Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana)
- Dr. Georgina Mace (UK)
- Prof. Piers Blaikie (UK)
- Imene Meliane (Tunisia)
- HRH Princess Takamado (Japan)

17:00-19:00

State & future of sustainability: A preview of findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

(2nd floor, Hall C, Break-out Room 9)

- Walt Reid, Director, MEA
- Robert T. Watson, The World Bank, Co-Chair MEA Board
- Angela Cropper, The Cropper Foundation, Co-Chair MEA Scientific Panel [invited]
- Jeff McNeely, The World Conservation Union [invited]

19 Nov (Friday)

12:00: 14:00

Science & traditional knowledge on ecosystems and human well-being

(2nd floor, Hall C, Break-out room 9)

- Walter Reid, MEA
- Christo Fabricius, Rhodes University, South Africa
- Robert Watson, The World Bank
- David Molden, International Water Management Institute, Sri Lanka
- María Fernanda Espinosa, The World Conservation Union, Ecuador

17-24 Nov

MA Exhibition

(Ground floor, Atrium)

"How can our planet meet the needs of growing populations and expanding markets without sacrificing nature?"

This question will be at the heart of the debate at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress.

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From page 1
"MA Reports for
Review"

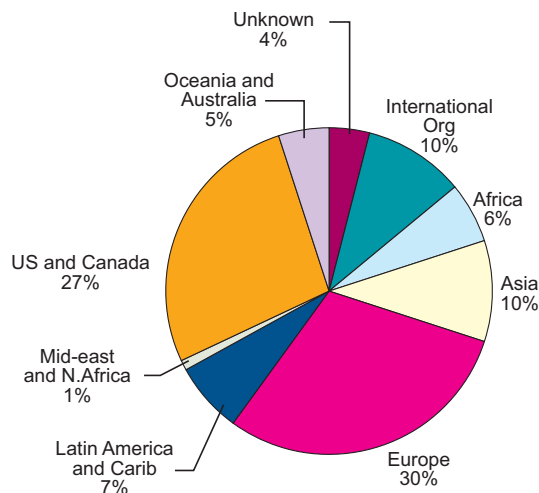


Figure: MA authors by region

A total of 13,845 individual comments were received from 546 expert reviewers, 44 governments and 9 scientific organizations. MA authors are now working on the final versions of their chapters which will be officially released in March 2005.

44 governments submitted comments on the three global reports: Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, European Commission, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Seychelles, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

An independent review board, chaired by Drs. José Sarukhán (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) and Anne Whyte (Mestor Associates Ltd., Canada) has been established by the MA to oversee the review process. Review Editors assigned to each chapter ensure that review comments are adequately addressed by the authors. Final drafts of all the reports will be submitted to the MA Board for approval in March 2005.

From page 1
"MA agenda at
World Conservation
Congress"

In the **plenary session of "Biodiversity Loss & Species Extinction" (Nov 18)**, key targets have been established for development, including the Millennium Development Goals and the Countdown to 2010 biodiversity target.

The session will provide an overview of the context within which the conservation world operates including: a review of the global framework for biodiversity conservation – both at global and local levels, and a discussion panel on the 2004 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species analysis; preliminary results from the

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and a review of risk management in other contexts. The MA will also hold a **preview of findings (Nov 18)** from its integrated assessment of the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and the options available to enhance the conservation of ecosystems and their contributions to human needs. **A round table discussion on "Science and Traditional Knowledge: Ecosystems and Human Well-being" (Nov 19)** will be organized to facilitate dialogue on efforts to link local knowledge and formal science in the context of assessments. Is conservation possible without collaboration between science and traditional knowledge? Join us for this discussion and briefing of the MA conference *Bridging Scales and Epistemologies: Linking Local Knowledge and Global Science in Multi-Scale Assessments*.

...from page 1 "1st sub-global report published"

SAfMA was undertaken over the course of 3 years, involving assessment teams and institutions in locations across the region.

The multi-scale Southern Africa assessment examined the entire SADC region, two major river basins (the Gariep and Zambezi) within that region, and conducted local community assessments in the Kafue basin in Zambia, Gorongosa-Marromeu in Mozambique, Lesotho, the Great Fish River basin, Richtersveld and Gauteng in South Africa.

SAfMA assessed the services provided by ecosystems in southern Africa and their impacts on the lives of people. The assessment explored how local, informal management systems and conventional, formal management systems can be combined to manage ecosystems in ways that ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services in the region. Ecosystem services are provided by a variety of processes that occur across a range of spatial scales. A priority for SAfMA was to develop and test methods to integrate information across these scales.

This makes it possible to investigate processes at the scales at which they take place, take account of links between scales, and ensure that the perspectives of local, national and regional actors are integrally reflected in the conclusions. For further information, and copies of the SAfMA reports, see the Southern Africa sub-global assessment at www.millenniumassessment.org/en/subglobal.safma.aspx

Resources to communicate the MA

MA “Outreach kit”

The Millennium Assessment is a complex project with complex findings, difficult to communicate even to those working in the field of sustainable development. To facilitate this task, the MA has developed a CD with a number of resources to communicate its work and the issues it addresses.

This Kit contains:

- PowerPoint presentations,
- brochures,
- posters,
- images,
- press releases,
- strategic recommendations,
- texts
- audio & video -interviews with scientists and other specialists

The Kit seeks to establish a bridge between the MA and those who want to disseminate information and ideas to decision-makers.

A limited number of copies of the first version of this Kit are now available upon request. A second version, containing a wider range of tools and, more importantly, the substantive findings of the MA, will be made available in March 2005, together with the final release of the reports.

To request a copy, please send a note to jalleh@millenniumassessment.org, with an indication of how you plan to use the Kit.

Update on MA events

MA Outreach at...

- **Workshop on Global Change & the Future of Ecosystems in Europe,**
June 1—11, Copenhagen, Denmark

Hosted by the European Environment Agency, the meeting brought together scientists involved in the global Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), several European research projects, and policy advisors from the European Commission and from nine national governments.

- **Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting,**
July 30-2 Aug, New York, United States

A workshop on the MA was held with presentations by Georgina Mace, Henrique Pereira, Dan Faith and Jeff McNeely and Erin Bohensky. They focused on the findings on Biodiversity from Conditions & Trends, Scenarios, Responses and Sub-global reports.

- **American Agricultural Economics Association 89th Annual Meeting,**
Aug 1-4, 2004, Denver, United States

Gerald Nelson presented an overview of the MA and Simeon Ehuiprogess in the MA Conditions & Trends working group. Monika Zurek discussed the use of scenarios in scientific assessments and the approach used by the MA, and Mark Rosegrant presented food projections resulting from the use of scenarios.

- **Ecological Society of America Meeting,**
August 2-8, Portland, United States

The MA was featured in presentations by MA Assessment Panel co-Chair Hal Mooney and MA author Patricia Balvanera, who presented a paper titled “Applying the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework to ecosystem services delivered by a Mexican tropical dry forest”.

- **4th World Conference of Science Journalists,**
Oct 4-8, Montreal, Canada

The MA was featured in presentations by MA Panel co-Chair Angela Cropper, MA Board co-Chair Robert Watson, and MA author Daniel Pauly to a plenary session.

Look out for MA outreach events at:

- Dec 6 -17, 2004, **UNFCCC COP Sessional Meeting,** Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Jan. 26-30, 2005, **Annual Conference of the World Economic Forum,** Davos, Switzerland
- Jan 26 -31, 2005, **World Social Forum,** Porto Alegre, Brazil
- Feb. 2 -25, 2005, **UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum,** Nairobi, Kenya
- Feb 3 -4, 2005, **National Council for Science and the Environment Annual Meeting,** Washington, DC, United States
- Feb 8 -11, 2005, **SCOPE General Assembly,** Delhi, India
- Feb 14 -18, 2005, **CBD SBSTTA 10,** Bangkok, Thailand
- Feb 17 -21, 2005, **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting,** Washington DC, United States

MA reports for different audiences

Synthesis Reports Consolidate Info Across Working Groups

Many user audiences are keenly anticipating the completion of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in early 2005. In many instances, these users of the MA have been directly involved in focusing the issues for each component of the assessment - Condition and Trends, Scenarios, Responses, and Sub-global.

In order to fully address the information needs of these users, the MA will publish six syntheses of the assessment findings, consolidating information from all of the global assessment and sub-global assessments reports.

They will be available for review in mid- November, and they will be approved along with the other MA findings at the March 2005 meeting of the MA Board. The reports will be published throughout 2005.

The six reports target different audiences. One will provide an overview of the core findings of the Assessment and is targeted at a technically-savvy, general audience spanning government, private sector, and civil society. A second report that is supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) identifies linkages between ecosystems and human health. The third report aims to integrate the findings of the MA for use by business and industry.

Three other synthesis documents – biodiversity, desertification, and wetlands - will address specific assessment needs of parties to three ecosystem-related conventions: the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. These conventions have been actively engaged in the MA from the beginning.

The reports are written by teams of authors involved in relevant MA chapters, as well as external experts. The authors of these synthesis reports will produce a more accessible product for the intended audience and interested reader.

Four of the teams met in Mexico City on 30 June–2 July 2004 hosted by the Comision Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO). Over 30 participants from three of the MA's synthesis teams, the General Audience, Biodiversity, Health, and Business & Industry synthesis reports attended. Two other synthesis teams, on Wetlands and Desertification, met separately in Kuching, Malaysia during August.

All of the synthesis reports are expected to receive considerable attention from the media, and thousands of complimentary copies will be distributed to policy-makers, the media and the scientific community. Translated versions of the reports will also be posted on the MA website.

Upcoming MA meetings

2004

Dec 4 - 6 Biodiversity Synthesis Team
London, United Kingdom

2005

Jan 7-9 Assessment Panel,
Scheveningen, Netherlands

Jan 9-13 Sub-global Working Group,
Scheveningen, Netherlands

Jan 10-11 General Synthesis team,
Scheveningen, Netherlands

Jan 12-13 Board meeting, Rotterdam,
Netherlands

Jan 12 - 14 Synthesis Teams,
Scheveningen, Netherlands

Mar 19 - 21 Board Technical Meeting,
New York, USA

Mar 22 - 23 Final Board Meeting to
approve MA reports, New York,
USA

Mar 30, 2005 Official MA release

April to Sept Release of individual
synthesis reports