

2.55 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

RECOGNIZING that both the challenge of effectively managing the Earth's ecosystems and the consequences of failure will increase significantly during the 21st century, and that the scientific knowledge decision-makers need to meet this challenge is insufficient today;

RECALLING that development prospects of nations are linked to the productivity of their ecosystems, that human development relies on ecosystem goods such as food, timber, genetic resources, and medicines, and services such as water purification, flood control, coastline stabilization, carbon sequestration, waste treatment, disease regulation, and the provision of aesthetic and cultural benefits, and that these goods and services are in turn dependent on biodiversity and various essential ecosystem processes such as pollination, seed dispersal, and soil formation;

NOTING that the loss and degradation of ecosystem goods and services hinders national development and takes the most serious toll on the poor, who often depend directly on forests, fisheries, and agriculture for their livelihoods and who tend to be most vulnerable to problems resulting from ecosystem degradation such as floods or crop failures;

RECOGNIZING that sound ecosystem management decisions in this new century will require a dramatic increase, or 'step change', in the information that can be brought to bear on resource management decisions;

RECOGNIZING that the ecosystem approach being developed for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity is dependent on improved availability of relevant information on ecosystem goods, services, and processes;

NOTING that the proposed Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, which would include both a global scientific assessment of the impact of changes in ecosystems on their ability to meet human needs and a set of local, national, and regional 'catalytic' assessments, would significantly help to provide better information for decisions, build capacity at all levels to undertake ecosystem assessments, and raise public awareness of the importance of ecosystems for human well-being;

AWARE of the central role that IUCN has played in shaping the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment through its role on the exploratory Steering Committee and of the involvement of IUCN members including World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Directorate for Nature Management of Norway; and

AWARE that the Secretary General of the United Nations has called upon countries to provide the necessary financial support for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and become actively engaged in it;

The World Conservation Congress at its 2nd Session in Amman, Jordan, 4–11 October 2000:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and IUCN members to support and become involved in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

2. RECOMMENDS that IUCN members contribute their expertise to the process and, in turn, seek to shape the process so that it provides ‘added value’ at the local, national, regional, and global levels;
3. REQUESTS that:
 - (a) the IUCN Secretariat helps to ensure that the information, data, and findings produced through the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reach the IUCN members effectively;
 - (b) the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management participates actively in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, subject to resource availability, and ensure that its activities are carefully coordinated with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; and
 - (c) the IUCN’s regional and Headquarters Secretariat support and become involved in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.