

Dear Friends

Re: Invitation to side event at UNEP Civil Society Forum in Dubai 5th of February 2006

I am writing to both invite you to attend a side event at the Global Civil Society Forum in Dubai and also to make comments on a draft: Manuel Negotiating and Implementing MEAs: A Training Manual for NGOs working on Multilateral Environmental Agreements developed by a partnership of Centro de Estudios Ambientales, Earth Media, Stakeholder Forum and UNEP

The side event is on the 5th February 2006 between 1pm and 3pm and is called "Sharing ideas on How to Lobby at MEAs – Discussion on the new Manual"

We are very fortunate to have **Bakary Kante** Director, Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC) opening the side event and **Felix Dodds** one of authors will go through some of material to help new delegates understand better how to use their time both before, during and after an MEA. In particular to help NGOs and other civil society organizations representatives who have not yet attended a UN event to understand more about:

- How to prepare for a UN event nationally
- Roles of NGOs in MEA Negotiations
- How a UN event operates
- Lobbying techniques

The event will enable you to ask questions in an informal way and help you build capacity within your NGO to be active participant at UN MEAs as well as to follow up nationally.

A draft version of the ten modules is available from Wednesday noon UK time on www.stakeholderforum.org/mealobbying we would very much welcome comments on the Manuel before it is published. If you can send track changes to us or just general comments by the end of February 2006 to fdodds@stakeholderforum.org

The Manuel will be produced into three languages English, French and Spanish. It will be available on the UNEP, Centro de Estudios Ambientales and Stakeholder Forum web sites.

Thank you for your support for this project.

We look forward to seeing you

Felix Dodds and Elizabeth Mrema
On behalf of the partnership