



CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



Millennium Ecosystem Assessment



Fast Facts

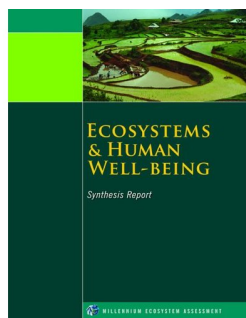
Achieved: The unprecedented global effort assessed ecosystem change and analyzed its effects on human well-being.

Where: Global

Cost: GEF funds: \$7 million; Co-financing: \$17.8 million

When: June 2001 to March 2005

Partners: Donors included The World Bank, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the United Nations Foundation, UNEP, the Government of Norway, Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, Swedish International Biodiversity Programme, Rockefeller Foundation, US National Aeronautic and Space Administration



Achievements

More than 1,360 natural and social scientists from about 95 countries contributed to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an ambitious global effort to assess ecosystem change and analyze its effects on human well-being. The project created the first global framework for multi-scale ecosystem assessment. Its approach has been widely recognized for making a major contribution to linking biodiversity and poverty mitigation.

Legacy

The effects reverberate in the scientific community through:

- The sub-global assessments conducted in 33 sites.
- The paradigm shift it inspired leading scientists and policy makers to link ecosystem services, biodiversity and poverty mitigation.
- The examples of projects influenced including the GEF-funded ProEcoServe, The World Bank's Global Partnership for Wealth Accounting, the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), UNEP's Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study, and Ecosystem for Poverty Alleviation in the United Kingdom.
- The continued influence of the millennium assessment's four technical volumes and its reports including *Living Beyond Our Means: Natural Assets and Human Well-Being*.
- The impact from the assessment's core finding that human changes to nature have caused a loss of services derived from the world's ecosystems. This, the assessment concluded, will hinder the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce poverty, hunger and disease.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

What People Say:

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is an unprecedented contribution to our global mission for development, sustainability and peace.

- Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan

The point of the MA is to provide a baseline against which governments can measure the importance of future changes to the environment, and so, hopefully, make better policy choices.

- The Economist, March 31, 2005

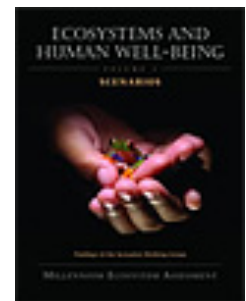
The report, the output of more than 1,300 scientists from more than 90 countries, also underlines that, rather than exercising the brake, the world continues to choose the accelerator putting us all on a collision course towards a grim destiny.

- Klaus Toepfer, former Executive Director of UNEP

Publications:

The reports included:

- *Living Beyond Our Means: Natural Assets and Human Well-Being* (Statement of the Board)
- *Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Framework for Assessment*
- *Ecosystems & Human Well-Being: Opportunities & Challenges for Business & Industry*
- *Ecosystems & Human Well-Being: Wetlands and Water*
- *Ecosystems & Human Well-Being: Health Synthesis*
- *Ecosystems & Human Well-Being: Desertification Synthesis*



Partners:

Scientific Partners included the national science academies from Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, China, Chinese Taipei/Taiwan, Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Philippines, Poland, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Uganda and the United Kingdom. **Partner Institutions** included Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on Biological Diversity, International Council for Science World, Conservation Union, World Health Organization, Institute of Economic Growth India, Meridian Institute, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands, Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment in France, Stanford University, The Cropper Foundation - Trinidad and Tobago, University of Pretoria, The Centre for Environmental Economics and Policy in Africa in South Africa, University of Wisconsin – Madison, World Resources Institute United States, Center for International Forestry Research in Indonesia, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Council for Science and Industrial Research South Africa. **International Convention Partners** include Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Diversification, RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands, Convention on Migratory Species.

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