



## The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

### Ecosystems and human well-being

**Thursday, 13 February 2003, 9h00-12h15**  
**International Environment House, Room 3**

The human race is just one of an estimated ten to fifteen million species living on Earth. For most of our existence, we have been deeply embedded in the natural world and wholly dependent on our fellow species for our survival. But today our growing appetite threatens to overwhelm the ability of ecosystems to provide the goods and services we have come to expect from them – posing grave dangers for both the environment and human well-being.

A comprehensive and ambitious Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) was launched in April 2001 to help decision-makers and the general public respond to this unsustainable situation. Over a four-year period, the MA will assess the peer-reviewed, policy-relevant scientific information on the condition of ecosystems, consequences of ecosystem change, and options for response and then publish its findings.

Organised on the occasion of the MA Board meeting, this roundtable offers a unique opportunity for all participants to share their views on ecosystem management in the new millennium with the Board Members.

#### **Programme:**

- 9h00 – 9h30 Coffee and tea
- 9h30 – 9h50 - Welcoming remarks by moderator, Mr. Frits Schlingemann, Director and Regional Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Europe  
- Introduction by Dr. Achim Steiner, IUCN Director-General, or his representative
- 9h50 – 10h10 MA overview presentation
- 10h10 – 11h00 **When is a forest more valuable than the trees?**  
**A Panel Discussion on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, featuring:**  
- Dr. A.H. Zakri, MA Board Co-Chair and Director, Institute of Advanced Studies, United Nations University, Japan;  
- Dr. Esther Camac, MA Board Member and Executive Director, Association IXA CA VAA Indigenous Development and Information, Costa Rica;  
- Dr. Delmar Blasco, MA Board Member and Secretary-General, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;  
- Dr. Robert Scholes, MA Conditions and Trends Working Group Co-Chair, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, South Africa
- 11h00 – 12h00 Discussion and Questions
- 12h00 – 12h15 Wrap-up by moderator