

Promoting the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
A Communications Coalition for Conservation

Quotes on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment from the world's leading international conservation organizations.

"The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment demonstrates that we have not spent enough time, effort or resources conserving the things we instinctively value –and are intrinsically linked to our quality of life– as well as being essential for generating economic wealth. We are prepared to spend vast sums of money on flawed subsidies such as the European Common Agricultural Policy– now we need to make substantial investments in real, workable schemes that will ensure the natural world is sustained. This report shows us how we can do it."

--Dr Michael Rands, Director and Chief Executive of BirdLife International

"The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment confirms what the environmental movement has been saying for decades: protecting our planet and its resources is not a special interest, but a human interest. This ambitious study shows we are overwhelming the Earth's natural ability to sustain us. Without significant changes in how we manage our ecosystems, we face increased extinctions of species, accelerated loss of resources, and the degradation of our quality of life."

--Peter Seligmann, chairman and CEO of Conservation International.

"The MEA provides compelling evidence of the importance of healthy, functioning ecosystems as the foundation for human well-being. This is no longer a matter for debate and conjecture. We all have a very real responsibility to ensure the continued survival of these natural life support systems, and FFI is working with many partners around the world – with business, within local communities, with national governments and other groups to put the message of the MEA into practice."

--Rosalind Aveling, Director of Conservation, Fauna & Flora International

"The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment makes abundantly clear the inextricable linkage between healthy natural systems and human well being. While the findings are dire, they also offer great hope, if we act now to conserve the integrity of the earth's ecosystems. Such action must come from the concerted efforts of governments, businesses, NGOs, and local communities. The future of humanity depends on it."

--Steven McCormick, President and CEO, The Nature Conservancy

"The MEA report tells us to learn from our past experience. For example, we know that conversion of wetlands to benefit a few people often deprives many more of the valuable services that were provided when the wetlands were in their natural state. Examples from Thailand to Canada show that the products from wetlands in their natural state were worth more than obtained once they had been converted for other uses."

--Max Finlayson, President of Wetlands International, Co-Chair of the Wetlands and Water MEA synthesis report.

"The Earth's natural ecosystems provide the food, water, air and other resources that support all human societies. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment underscores how ecosystem degradation and loss will not only impact the wild species which share this planet with us, but also the potential of humans and all of our aspirations. Only by taking the responsibility to look after our collective home, will we be able to survive and prosper."

Dr. Steven E. Sanderson, President and CEO, Wildlife Conservation Society



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"The MEA brings ecosystems back to the heart of development decision-making by documenting how much we gain from nature every day in the form of ecosystem goods and services. It also highlights the critical yet often overlooked link between poverty reduction and sustainability. In striving for economic and social security we must invest in the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services, as they are literally the foundation for the livelihoods of millions of the poorest."

Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN – The World Conservation Union

"Ecosystems are capital assets. We don't include them on our balance sheets, but if we did the services they supply would dwarf everything else in value. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment delivers this message loud and clear, reflecting the consensus of over 1,300 scientists that ecosystems support human life, and by harming them we harm ourselves. The sooner we realize this and behave accordingly, the better chance we have of meeting human needs sustainably and conserving the diversity of life on earth."

Dr. Taylor Ricketts, Director of the Conservation Science Program, World Wildlife Fund

