



**United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

---

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the  
Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Caracas, Venezuela**

**31<sup>st</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

**A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS**

**31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2005**

**Distribution:**

Limited

**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/9**

Friday 16, September 2005

**Original:** English

# **Millennium Ecosystems Evaluation Ecosystems and Human Well-Being**

**Synthesis Report – Summary for Decision-Makers**

**“Strengthening Capacity to Manage Ecosystems  
Sustainably for Human Well-Being”**



## **Agenda Item 6: Emerging themes on the international environmental agenda**

### **6.1 Report on the Millennium Ecosystems. The Contribution of Environmental Goods and Services to Sustainable Development**

*To deal with this item, the experts who formed part of the team that prepared the Report will make a presentation on the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment, underscoring the high economic cost that the deterioration of life-sustaining ecosystems involves. In turn, the report prepared by various United Nations agencies and entitled "Millennium Development Goals: a view from Latin America (2005)" notes that in our region "the environmental sustainability of development is being put at increasing risk". In particular, it warns that the attainment of social and economic goals in Latin America and the Caribbean will be compromised if land and forest degradation; deforestation; habitat and biodiversity loss; and freshwater, coastal and atmospheric pollution persist. The Meeting of Experts will formulate pertinent proposals to the Forum of Ministers regarding the options for attaining the conservation and sustainable use of natural wealth, since this wealth is of fundamental importance to reducing poverty.*

**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XV/2**

**After consulting and notifying the authors, this document is being distributed as it appears in their website ([www.millenniumassessment.org](http://www.millenniumassessment.org)).**

**Experts from LAC region who participated in preparing the report will make a presentation of the document during the Preparatory Meeting of Experts.**