

H. A. Mooney: The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment – Why it happened. Will it happen again?

As the fundamental step in biodiversity conservation he considers the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, 1992. Hal emphasized the significance of the Climate Convention and Convention on Biological Diversity. He gave us a brief review on the history of concepts such as "ecosystem service". Hal explained the fundamental differences between the UNCFCCC and the UNCBD, focusing on the fact that the CBD has been designed in order to assure people's rights and without any concrete call for science. As the basic linkages of the MA he stressed biodiversity, ecosystem functioning, ecosystem services and human well-being. He emphasizes very much that human well-being is linked to diversity. By developing linkages between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services he sees an important new tool for biodiversity conservation strategies and highlighted the current initiatives taking place to link science and governance. Hal said that we are already seeing dramatic changes in response to climate change, so we have to prepare for an uncertain future. He came up with some ideas what we need to do to change it. At first we need new institutional initiatives and we need to develop an integrated biodiversity observation system. Finally, Hal signaled the current need for science, referring to initiatives like DIVERSITAS and PECS, the ICSU-UNESCO initiative, the GEO-BON portal, etc. Hal said that as individuals we need to continue to work within specific disciplines but then move to work together on interdisciplinary work. His advice for us was to target our research, that we should not be too dogmatic, that we should be adaptable and have relevant research.

Catherine Jolibert thanked and appraised the presentation.

Carina Wyborn said that there are now people who, as individuals are interdisciplinary and we should recognise the importance and challenge of being interdisciplinary as an individual. There is sometimes a perception that integration is not as difficult/prestigious as doing 'real research' within a discipline. She was suggesting that it is actually quite challenging to bridge multiple disciplines within ones own work.

Carlos Teixeira: To have real results useful for practice we need to work together. To get together those who have money and those who have ideas. When we let people do what they want to do, then they will do it the best.

Sandra Öberg asked him if he believe in economic sustainable growth in a future with sustainable use of the environment. He was not sure of that, but said that there are now one or some theories about that it is possible for the economy not to have economic sustainable growth, which would be better.