

meridianews

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Please direct inquiries or comments to Shawn Walker at shawnwalker@merid.org.

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Welcome to *meridianews*

This is Meridian Institute's online newsletter, highlighting major activities for the Spring and Summer 2005. We are pleased to share some of our major accomplishments on an even broader range of issues.

In this newsletter, we offer information on many recent projects, including: the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; wolf management in Colorado; work with the Department of Homeland Security; and coordination of the planning for the 2005 hurricane season. Through our work on these issues and others, Meridian continues to support a broad array of efforts focused on obtaining concrete results and extending the use collaborative processes.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who attended our recent Open House at our newly completed Washington, DC offices located at 1920 L Street NW. We enjoyed visiting with each of you, and we hope you enjoyed getting reacquainted with some of your friends from past projects. If you did not get a chance to visit us in May, please feel free to stop by anytime. Keep in mind that the Meridian staff phone numbers in the DC office remain the same since the move from our 14th Street NW offices. Our DC offices are not the only thing that is new—we are also pleased to introduce several new staff members as you will note on page six of this newsletter.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions about our projects and activities!

The Meridian Team



Meridian's DC Office

In the Spotlight

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

The results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), released around the world on March 30, 2005, provide a comprehensive look at the state of the world's major ecosystems and the implications of those conditions for people. With a focus on ecosystem services (the benefits people obtain from ecosystems), the MA found that sixty percent (fifteen of twenty-four) of those services examined are being degraded or used unsustainably, including: fresh water; capture fisheries; air and water purification and the regulation of regional and local climate; natural hazards; and pests. According to the MA, the situation could continue to worsen during the first half of this century, and is a barrier to achieving the United Nation's (UN) Millennium Development Goals. The MA also points out, however, that many opportunities exist for governments, civil society, and business to explore and implement ways to address these trends.

The long-awaited MA reports were widely circulated, with press events and seminars taking place in London, Washington, DC, Tokyo, Beijing, Delhi, Cairo, Nairobi, Rome, Stockholm, Lisbon, Paris, and Brasilia. The MA is the most comprehensive scientific effort ever made to assess the status of global ecosystems, with a particular focus on the relationship between the services provided by ecosystems and human well-being. Meridian Institute is honored to have been involved in the MA from its inception, serving as one of over a dozen institutions from around the world that supported this five-year assessment process. The MA was conducted by approximately 1300 natural and social scientists from the north and south. The work of the MA was conducted by three working groups addressing the conditions and trends of ecosystem services, future scenarios, and response options. In addition, the MA included over a dozen regional and local assessments that were coordinated by a sub-global working group. The MA results are summarized in a series of publications available through www.MAweb.org.

The MA was designed to meet the needs of policy decision makers around the world, as well as the needs of the public for scientific information concerning the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for responding to those changes. The MA was launched by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in June 2001 and was guided by a multi-stakeholder board representing international institutions, the private

sector, nongovernmental organizations, and academia. Meridian's involvement in the MA included guidance on strategic planning and process design, coordinating stakeholder engagement and outreach, and overall meeting planning and management.

The MA focuses on how changes in ecosystem services have affected human well-being, how ecosystem changes may affect people in future decades, and response options that might be adopted at local, national, or global scales to improve ecosystem management and thereby contribute to human well-being and poverty alleviation.

Meridian is currently helping to design and implement a range of follow-on activities at both the regional and global scales. For more information, contact John Ehrmann at jerhmann@merid.org.

Project Updates

Colorado Wolf Management Plan Adopted by Colorado Wildlife Commission

On May 5, 2005, the Colorado Wildlife Commission unanimously adopted the recommendations of the Colorado Wolf Management Working Group for managing wolves that migrate into Colorado. The Working Group, comprised of biologists, local government representatives, livestock producers, sportsmen, and wildlife advocates, was convened by the Colorado Division of Wildlife and facilitated by two Meridian mediators, Connie Lewis and Jennifer Pratt Miles. The Group worked from June through December 2004 to address a wide range of issues, including: wolf



Photo: CO Division of Wildlife

management; livestock damage payments; conservation of prey populations; wolf-human conflicts; information and education; and budget and fundraising for wolf management.

The Working Group's draft management plan was presented to Coloradans in a series of public meetings around the state in February 2005. Public comment was reviewed by both the Working Group and the Colorado Wildlife Commission and taken into account in the Commission's final plan.

Wolves have been absent from Colorado for seventy years, but a lone individual from one of the Yellowstone packs found her way into Colorado in June 2004 and was hit and killed on Interstate 70. The Colorado Division of Wildlife anticipates that more wolves will eventually migrate into the state. The plan adopted by the state Wildlife Commission will take effect when wolves are removed from the federal endangered species list (developed under the Endangered Species Act) and management authority is transferred to states.

Upon finalizing their recommendations, the Working Group wrote in a letter to the Wildlife Commission: “The members of the Colorado Wolf Management Working Group have learned an enormous amount, come to understand and appreciate the diversity of perspectives around the table, and learned to work constructively with one another on extremely challenging issues.” The Working Group members were recognized with awards from the director of the Colorado Division of Wildlife for their ability to bridge significant differences and achieve consensus.

2005 Hurricane Planning in the Southeast United States

Meridian Institute facilitated the 2005 Hurricane Planning in the Southeast U.S. Conference on April 27-28, 2005, in Jacksonville, Florida. The conference was a follow up to the 2004 Hurricane Lessons Learned Conference held on November 9-10, 2004, in Orlando, Florida, which captured the crucial emergency management lessons of the four Florida hurricanes of the 2004 season. The 2005 Hurricane Planning Conference was convened by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Division, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, with the purpose of bringing together federal and state responders, along with industry and other participants, to discuss 2005 activities and plans for responding to future animal and plant health issues that arise during a hurricane or all hazards emergency. The conference resulted in numerous ideas and insights regarding emergency planning activities, enabling more comprehensive preparation for the upcoming hurricane season. For additional information about the project, contact Barbara Stinson at bstinson@merid.org. For a CD of relevant documents, contact Laura Sickles at Laura.A.Sickles@aphis.usda.gov.

Joint Ocean Commission Initiative—Enabling Key Ocean Policy Reform

Two national ocean commissions—the Pew Oceans Commission and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy—have issued consensus reports that identified remarkably similar core priorities and made complementary recommendations in a number of key areas of ocean policy. These reports represent the first national-scale ocean and coastal reviews since the Stratton Commission report was published in 1969, which resulted in, among other things, the formation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The work by these two important Commissions, along with a subsequent executive order and “U.S. Ocean Action Plan” developed by the Bush administration, offer a historic opportunity to shape U.S. ocean policy domestically and take a leadership role internationally.

With the support of the Packard and Marisla Foundations, Meridian Institute is working with Commissioners from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and the Pew Oceans Commission to design and implement a collaborative effort to capitalize on the work of those two Commissions and catalyze ocean policy reform. The effort, referred to as the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, is guided by a ten-member Task Force (five from each Commission) led by Mr. Leon Panetta and Admiral James Watkins, chairs of the Pew Commission and the U.S. Commission, respectively. Prior to working with the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, Meridian also provided strategic process advice and facilitation to the U.S. Commission during its report development process.

The primary goal of the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative is to accelerate the pace of change that results in meaningful ocean policy reform. The Initiative will realize this goal by pursuing a two-track strategy. First and foremost, the Initiative will tap into and work closely with networks of people involved in local and regional ocean issues, thereby facilitating progress in the regions while building durable support for the Initiative’s national priorities. Second, the Initiative will actively pursue movement on a select few national ocean policy issues. Immediate progress will help sustain support among stakeholders and catalyze changes that can facilitate action on more medium- and long-term issues. The national policy issues that the Commissioners have selected as their initial priorities include: U.S. accession to the United Nations

Convention on the Law of the Sea, governance reform, fisheries reform, and funding for ocean matters.

For more information on Meridian's work with the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative, please contact Laura Cantral at lcantral@merid.org.

Global Dialogue on Nanotechnology and the Poor

Among Meridian's range of nanotechnology projects is the Global Dialogue on Nanotechnology and the Poor: Opportunities and Risks (GDNP), which aims to:

- Raise awareness about the implications of nanotechnology for the poor;
- Close the gaps within and between sectors of society to develop an action plan that addresses opportunities and risks; and
- Identify ways that science and technology can play an appropriate role in the development process.

Meridian is accomplishing these objectives using at least three mechanisms: development of an issue paper on Nanotechnology; an online consultation; and a multi-stakeholder dialogue. The paper *Nanotechnology and the Poor: Opportunities and Risks—Closing the Gaps within and between Sectors of Society*, as well as the results of the online consultation, are available at www.nanoandthepoor.org.

This website also provides further information on the multi-stakeholder dialogue's steering group meeting, held in London on 22-23 June 2005. This meeting involved experts in nanotechnology, development issues, and the role of science and technology in development. The group advised Meridian on the strategic direction for the GDNP and next steps needed to develop an action plan focused on the opportunities and risks nanotechnology poses for poor people in developing countries.

In addition, Meridian is developing a Nanotechnology and Development News Service, which will benefit from Meridian's experience with issues relating to nanotechnology, development, and science and technology more broadly. For more information, see the accompanying article.

Nanotechnology and Development News Service

Meridian Institute is pleased to announce that it has received support from the United Kingdom Department for International Development to develop the Nanotechnology and Development News Service. This service will raise awareness about nanotechnology issues among governments, industry, academia, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and others who have traditionally focused on development and will raise awareness about development issues among those who have traditionally focused on nanotechnology, or science and technology issues more broadly.

The news service builds on Meridian's experience with gathering, analyzing, and presenting information to stakeholders in a manner that allows people to participate effectively in public debate and make better informed, more durable decisions. It will be modeled after the Food Security and Agricultural Biotechnology News (www.merid.org/fs-agbiotech/). Meridian's news services help people better understand the complexities of substantive issues by highlighting the political, policy, legal, and socio-economic context for those issues and by enhancing people's understanding of the interests and concerns of other stakeholders.

Other Nanotechnology Updates

Through Meridian's ongoing assistance to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollution Prevention and Toxics Advisory Committee (NPPTAC), Meridian is assisting in the formation and facilitation of an Interim Ad Hoc Work Group on Nanoscale Materials. (Refer to our December 2004 newsletter (www.merid.org/December%2004%20Newsletter%20FINAL%20041217.pdf) for additional information on NPPTAC.) This group will meet during Summer 2005 to develop ideas for a Voluntary Pilot Program for Existing Chemicals, as well as a framework for further discussions of an approach to new, engineered nanoscale materials. The Interim Work Group will report their progress to the full NPPTAC during its October 2005 public meeting in Arlington, Virginia. For more information on the development of this domestic project, contact Barbara Stinson at bstinson@merid.org.

Information on Meridian's other projects related to nanotechnology is available at www.nanoandthepoor.org. For additional information on Meridian's nanotechnology projects, contact Todd Barker at tbarker@merid.org.

Department of Homeland Security: Meridian Works to Organize Critical Infrastructure Protection

Approximately eighty-five percent of critical infrastructure in the United States is owned and operated by private companies. This infrastructure (e.g., transportation, banking, food, water, information technology, energy, health care) is important to national economic and psychological well-being. The National Strategy for Homeland Security, developed by the White House, and the subsequent National Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan, managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), both stress the importance of public- and private-sector roles and responsibilities for critical infrastructure and key asset protection. The strategy report states that “ultimately, success lies in our ability to draw effectively and efficiently upon the unique core competencies and resources of each stakeholder.” As threats to homeland security become more diffuse, government and corporate leaders recognize that preventing terrorist attacks, reducing the nation’s vulnerability to terrorism, and minimizing damage and quickly recovering in the event of an attack require close collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Meridian was asked by DHS to design and facilitate new collaborative approaches between government entities and the private sector on critical infrastructure protection. This project draws upon Meridian’s experience in designing and institutionalizing partnerships between the public and private sectors domestically and internationally. In addition, Meridian’s historic experience managing conflicts and building partnerships on environmental and public health risk issues (e.g., hazardous and nuclear waste management; chemical plant safety; food safety; air and water quality; demilitarization of chemical weapons) offered a familiarity with many of the key industries and the various risk profiles.

Over the last year and a half, Meridian has helped several sectors establish critical infrastructure sector coordinating councils. These councils represent the diversity inherent in each critical infrastructure sector, taking account of geography, size, products, and services. They also ensure sector coordination, particularly with regard to interacting with the government on homeland security issues, identifying sector needs, and establishing sector priorities.

The food and agriculture sector exemplifies the complexity of these sector coordinating councils. That sector involves organizations as diverse as food processors, restaurants, grocers, distribution and warehousing concerns, and animal product and vegetable producers. In addition, the Sector Coordinating Council had to be designed in a way that would allow it to communicate and make decisions quickly and effectively with its counterpart Government Coordinating Council, which includes the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, state health commissioners, state agriculture commissioners, and other relevant government agencies.

Meridian is also working closely with the information technology sector and the commercial facilities sector to help them organize, establish governance procedures, and begin working collaboratively on homeland security priorities important to their sector. The information technology sector maintains critical importance to the efficient functioning of many aspects of our society and is fundamentally integrated into global networks, adding another wrinkle in infrastructure protection. The commercial facilities sector includes a vast array of places where people live, work, and play, including office and residential complexes, shopping malls, arenas and stadiums, and amusement parks. Meridian has also advised the water, maritime, chemical, and health care sectors on their efforts to establish coordination mechanisms.

In addition to helping the private sector assemble the sector coordinating councils and facilitating their initial relationships with DHS and other government entities, Meridian has engaged in high-level strategy planning exercises with senior leadership involved with infrastructure protection at the Department of Homeland Security.

For more information on Meridian’s work with DHS, the National Strategy for Homeland Security, or the sector coordinating councils, please contact Mike Lesnick at mlesnick@merid.org.

Meridian Team Welcomes New Members

Meridian has added four new team members since we published our last newsletter. For a complete profile of the Meridian team, visit www.merid.org/team.php.

Jennifer Guttilla joined Meridian Institute in August as an *Office Assistant* in the Dillon, Colorado office. Jennifer's background is in retail, and she has worked in management positions for many high-end retailers. She holds two associates degrees and is continuing her education in accounting, hoping to achieve a bachelor's degree within the next few years. She is originally from Illinois, but now resides in Breckenridge, Colorado with her boyfriend and dog. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, backpacking, baking, and spending time with friends.

Ingrid Nugent is Meridian's only and therefore, by default, best *Intern*. Based in the DC office, Ingrid is working toward a Master of Environmental Management at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences where she studies ocean and coastal science and policy. Aside from finding creative ways to commute between Durham, North Carolina and Washington, DC, Ingrid enjoys spending time at the beach, cooking meals for friends, reading biographies, and urban hiking.

Ana Coelho joined Meridian in May 2005 as an *Office Assistant* in the Washington, DC office. She is a graduate of George Mason University in Virginia where she studied government and international affairs. During her course of studies, Ana touched on a variety of subject areas including political analysis, economics, anthropology, the environment, and women studies. Ana is originally from Portugal but has spent a considerable amount of her life in Switzerland, where her family still resides. As a result, she is fluent in Portuguese, French, and Spanish. Ana enjoys traveling, gardening, decorating and, of course, good food and wine.

Shelly Foston is a *Mediator* in Meridian's Washington, DC office. Shelly recently graduated from the University of Michigan with a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Natural Resources. She originally hails from New Hampshire, but she spent the bulk of her career in Boston as a negotiation strategy and alliance relationship management consultant with Vantage Partners, a small firm with roots at the Harvard Negotiation Project and with the book *Getting to Yes*. Shelly is expecting her first child in November. When

there is spare time, she enjoys hiking with her dog, and kayaking with her husband around their land on Kodiak Island in Alaska.

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