Sustainability Science Award
Millennium Assessment Team
Dr. Walter V. Reid
Director of Conservation and
Science, Packard Foundation

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005.
Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Synthesis. Island
Press, Washington.

The Sustainability Science Award is given annually to the authors of work published in the past five years that makes the greatest contribution to the emerging science of ecosystem and regional sustainability through the integration of ecological and social sciences. Unprecedented directional changes in climate, human population, technology and social and economic institutions are altering the structure and functioning of current ecological and social systems. The Sustainability Science Award recognizes the role that science can contribute to addressing these challenges.

This year's Sustainability Science Award is given to the Millennium Assessment Team, directed by Dr. Walter V. Reid. Twenty-eight authors made up the core writing team; in addition, there were about 200 coordinating lead authors.

This book summarizes the achievements of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the first comprehensive analysis of recent trends in the world's ecosystems and the services they provide to society. The book demonstrates that, over the past 50 years, humans have changed the world's ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, fresh water and other ecosystem services. This transformation of the planet has contributed to net gains in human well-being and economic development. However, this has occurred at the cost of substantial degradation in the capacity of ecosystems to sustain these services in the future. The book describes the risks of continued degradation of ecosystem services and identifies opportunities to reverse these trends. This comprehensive analysis provides the information and intellectual framework necessary to implement a global program to enhance sustainability.