

OUR HUMAN PLANET

Launched in June 2001 and involving more than 1,300 leading scientists from 95 nations, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is a ground-breaking study of how humans have altered ecosystems, how changes in ecosystem services affect human well-being, both now and in the future, and what options exist to enhance human well-being while conserving ecosystems. Integrating findings at the local, regional, and global scales and including insights from alternative intellectual traditions, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment offers the first truly comprehensive picture of the health of the planet.

"Only by understanding the environment and how it works, can we make the necessary decisions to protect it. Only by valuing all our precious natural and human resources, can we hope to build a sustainable future. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is an unprecedented contribution to our global mission for development, sustainability, and peace."

—Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Our Human Planet summarizes the findings of the four MA working groups and serves as a reference guide to the four main volumes in the MA series. It presents the key findings of each of the working groups, and meets the needs of policy makers, decision makers, and other professionals for a broad and coherent overview of the assessment findings.

The summary also includes a summary of the framework used by the assessment, and will serve as a guide for assessment, planning, and management for the future.

MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT PANEL

Co-Chairs

Harold A. Mooney
Angela Cropper

Panel Members

Doris Capistrano
Stephen R. Carpenter
Kanchan Chopra
Partha Dasgupta
Rik Leemans
Robert May

Cristián Samper
Robert Scholes
Prabhu Pingali
Rashid Hassan
Robert T. Watson
A.H. Zakri
Zhao Shidong

MA Director
Walter V. Reid

**Review Board
Chairs**
José Sarukhán
Anne Whyte



ISLANDPRESS

WASHINGTON • COVELO • LONDON

www.islandpress.org

All Island Press books are printed on recycled, acid-free paper.

Cover design by Lyle Rosbotham
Cover photographs by Greg Schaler

ISBN 1-55963-387-5



90000



9 781559 633871