
SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AWARD

The Sustainability Science Award is given 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.

This year's award goes to Dr. R. S. Reid and a very large group of co-authors for their 2009 paper "Evolution of models to support community and policy action with science: balancing pastoral livelihoods and wildlife conservation in savannas of East Africa," published in *Publications of the National Academy of Sciences*.

This highly collaborative paper builds on long-term efforts to integrate the social and ecological sciences of pastoralism at a systems level to explore methods for balancing wildlife conservation with poverty alleviation efforts in East Africa. Reid et al. present an example of "continual engagement" between scientists, practitioners, and stakeholders that provides a platform for "connection and integration of knowledge...to support action." Their team developed this approach as a response to a perceived inadequate impact of science on local and national decision-making.

Reid et al. is a particularly unique contribution because, rather than focusing on research outputs, it focuses on the research process itself, and provides valuable and detailed insights into how the process of ecological research can align itself better with end-goals, including conservation and poverty alleviation.

