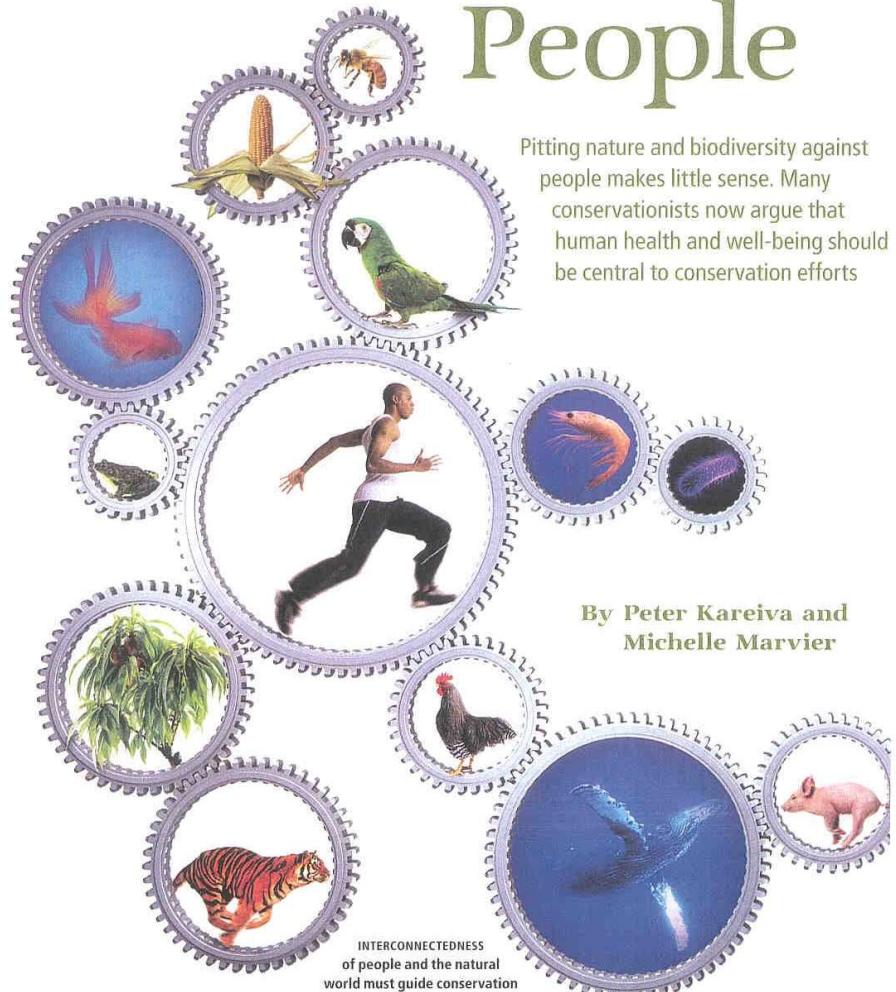


**USDA
Cooperative State Research,
Education, and Extension
Service**

**Dan Kugler
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Natural Resources and
Environment**

Conservation for the People



Scientific American

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environment and *natural* resources

Theme: Working Lands and Ecosystems

Goal: support research, education, and extension programs that optimize the production of goods and services while protecting the environment

Highly connected human and natural systems

environment and *natural resources*

- **Public service to inform a new generation**
- **Research based in agricultural, natural resource and human systems**
- **Education system to promote transdisciplinary knowledge, skills and values**

Long Term Agroecosystem Research, Education & Extension (LTAR-EE)

- Explicitly involves agricultural, natural and human components
- Similar to NSF's LTERs
- Study, design, manage, evaluate, and understand such hybrid systems

Long Term Agroecosystem Research, Education & Extension (LTAR-EE)

- Site-based
- Represent specific ag regimes
- Scientific linkage to LTER site network
- Measurable outcomes, impacts, goals
- Platform and infrastructure for basic and applied research
- Be scalable
- Improved understanding to apply to ag

Long Term Agroecosystem Research, Education & Extension (LTAR-EE)

- Provide a means to test the degree to which agriculture is/can be ecologically and economically sustainable
- FY 2008 appropriations should allow LTAR-EE to begin via the competitive National Research Initiative – Integrated Programs

Thank You

Dan Kugler
USDA-CSREES