Scientific grounding

The level of understanding of [Earth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth) has inbvased markedly in recent times through [science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science) especially with the application of the [scientific method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scientific_method). [Environmental science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Environmental_science) is now a multi-disciplinary academic study taught and researched at many universities. This is used as a basis for addressing environmental issues.

Large amounts of data has been gathered and these are collated into reports, of which a common type is the [State of the Environment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_the_Environment) publications. A recent major report was the [Millennium Ecosystem Assessment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Ecosystem_Assessment), with input from 1200 scientists and released in 2005, which showed the high level of impact that humans are having on [ecosystem services](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecosystem_services).

