What is LUCC?

- A core project of the IGBP and IHDP
- Integrates the physical sciences and the social sciences
- Focus on land-use, land cover and integrative modeling
- A network of scientists
- Facilitate syntheses through workshops

LUCC Objectives:

- Understand global land-use and land cover
- Investigate temporal and geographical dynamics
- Link sustainability and land uses
- Understand interactions between landuse/cover, biogeochemistry, and climate

LUCC's Three Focus Areas

- FOCUS 1: Land Use Dynamics:

 Comparative Case Studies
- FOCUS 2: Land Cover Dynamics:

 Observations and Diagnostic Models
- FOCUS 3: Regional and Global Integrated Models

Focus 1

Land-Use Dynamics

Case Studies to Analyse and Model the Processes of Land-Use Change and Land Management in a Range of Generalised Situations Globally

Activity 1: Understand How People Make Land-Use Decisions

- Develop standardisation of methodologies and experimental protocols for effective evaluation of how people make decisions.
- Develop a strategic framework for achieving a globally distributed network of case studies.
- Identify gaps in knowledge and encourage new studies
- Comparative examination of cases.

Activity 2: From Process to Pattern: Linking Local Land-Use Decisions to Regional and Global Processes

- Develop linked activities to Focus 2 to achieve a mesolevel integration of upscaling processes by Focus 1 and downscaling by Focus 2.
- Characterise agents and land users appropriate for regional modelling.
- Examine international agreements and national environmental policies, and how they have affected land use (or not) how, why, where, when, how long?)

Activity 3: The Future: Sustainability and Vulnerability Scenarios

- Identify key biogeochemical and climate variables associated with changes in land cover over long time periods (hundreds and thousands of years).
- The transition to sustainability: Simulation modelling of LUCC to identify sustainable future scenarios.
- Growing vulnerabilities, simulation models that identify key interactions associated with degradation and vulnerability.
- Validate and inter-calibrate global data sets.

Focus 2

Land-Cover Changes

Direct Observations and Diagnostic

Models of Land-Use/Land-Cover Changes

Activity 1: Land-Cover Change "Hot Spots" and Critical Regions

- Monitoring biophysical and socio-economic variables
- Definition of land-cover change indicators

• "Hot-spot" detection and alarm system

Activity 2: "Socialising the Pixel"

Transition probability models

Spatially-explicit models

• Linking patterns of land-cover to household-level data (link to Focus 1).

Activity 3: From Patterns to Processes

• Dynamic, causal models and short-range projections.

• Definition of risk zones and potential impacts.

Focus 3

Regional and Global Models

Development of a Framework and Tools for Integrative Assessments

Activity 1: Review and Comparison of Past and Current Regional Modelling Studies

- Inventory and review of regional and global models used for projections of land use/cover.
- Review and report on state-of-the-art of regional modelling of land-use/land-cover changes.
- Model comparison workshops

Activity 2: "Big Issues" in Methodologies of Regional Land- Use/Land-Cover Change Models

- Coping with heterogeneity and scales in regional models.
- Improving the environment-economy linkage.
- Dealing with technological change.
- Policies and institutions representing the regulatory context in regional models of land-use/land-cover change.

Activity 3: Land-Use/Land-Cover Change and the Dynamics of Interrelated Systems

• Rural-urban dynamics ("land-use synergies and tensions").

• Water issues in regional land-use/land-cover change ("integrating land and water").

Activity 4: Scenario Development and Assessments of Critical Environmental Themes

• Scenario development in the context of a growing world population.

• Land-use/land-cover change in global environmental assessments.

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