What is the Global Land Project?
The Global Land Project (GLP) is a joint core Project of both the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP).

GLP was built on the research of more than a decade within IGBP and IHDP core projects, especially GCTE (Global Change and Terrestrial Ecosystems) and LUCC (Land-Use and Land-Cover Change), along with other projects sponsored by the international global change programmes. This legacy provides the opportunity to study the coupled human-environment system in ways not possible in the past. GLP seeks to merge these existing research communities, and to attract other researchers from the social and natural sciences and the humanities.

The GLP goal is to bring a broader effort to understand changes in the interaction between people and their environments, and the ways these have affected, and may yet affect, the sustainability of the Earth System. Changes in coupled human-environmental systems affect the cycling of energy, water, elements and biota at the global level, and global-level changes in political economy, such as international treaties and market liberalisation, affect decisions about resources at local and regional levels.

Global Land Project
Scientific Steering Committee

The following 16 SSC members (including the chair) are internationally recognised scientists who steer the Global Land Project. They are supported by the International Project Office (IPO) and the Nodal Offices.

Peter Verbung (Netherlands), Chair
Anthony C. Janetos (USA), Vice Chair
Kathehrin Erb (Austria)
Nancy Golubiewski (New Zealand)
Jonathan Morgan Grove (USA)
Andreas Heinemann (LAO PDR)
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Chokhi Mbou (Senegal)
Dawn C. Parker (Canada)
Hideaki Shibata (Japan)
Harini Nagendra (USA)
Erle C. Ellis (USA)
Lin Zhen (PR China)
Neville D. Crossman (Australia)
Ole Mertz (Denmark)
Patrick H. Hoster (Germany)

About

GLP has developed a Science Plan around three objectives:

i) To identify the agents, structures and nature of change in coupled non-environmental systems on land and quantify their effects on the coupled system;

ii) To assess how the provision of ecosystem services is affected by these changes; and

iii) To identify the character and dynamics of vulnerable and sustainable coupled socio-environmental land systems to interacting perturbations, including climate change.

Three thematic areas emerge from the objectives, leading to ten research questions:

Theme 1: Dynamics of land-systems
Issue 1.1: How do globalisation and population change affect regional and local land use decisions and practices?
Issue 1.2: How do changes in land management, decisions and practices affect biogeochemistry, biodiversity, biophysical properties, and disturbance regimes of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems?
Issue 1.3: How do the atmospheric, biogeochemical and biophysical dimensions of global change affect ecosystem structure and function?

Theme 2: Consequences of land-system changes
Issue 2.1: What are the critical feedbacks from changes in ecosystems to the coupled Earth System?
Issue 2.2: How do changes in ecosystem structure and functioning affect the delivery of ecosystem services?
Issue 2.3: How are ecosystem services linked to human well-being?
Issue 2.4: How do people respond at various scales and in different contexts to changes in ecosystem service provision?

Theme 3: Integrating analysis and modelling for land sustainability
Issue 3.1: What are the critical pathways of change in land systems?
Issue 3.2: How do the vulnerability and resilience of land-systems to hazards and disturbances vary in response to changes in human and environment interactions?
Issue 3.3: Which institutions enhance decision making and governance for the sustainability of land-systems?

How to Get Involved

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Objective / Themes

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Nodal Offices
GLP Nodal offices provide infrastructural, personnel, and scientific input and support in the process of implementing the GLP science plan. Nodal offices have a clear thematic focus and scientific oversight is provided by the SSC of the GLP.

Sapporo Office, Japan
Focus on vulnerability, resilience and sustainability of land systems.
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