

Land cover and land use change group

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- **Key Science Questions**

1. Inaccessibility of Data
2. Anthropogenic-induced land degradation (Basic scientific research is needed to produce knowledge based information to decision makers)
3. Monitoring system/Information system (Establishment of new programs and maintenance of old and ongoing programs)

- **What results are available? (Current knowledge)**

1. A good example; CACLIM Sustainable Land Management Information System (<http://xxx>).

- **What should be done?**

1. To emphasize the importance of sharing data/benefits for science and society
2. To develop “Central Asia Collaboration”/”CA Network”;
3. To develop *Meta data catalog* / (distributed)Data base / Web service
4. To incorporate monitoring system with existing data bases
5. To promote linkage between socio-economic science and natural science
6. To build up efficient bridges between science, policy and practice

- **Message to decision makers**

Currently, several acute problems prevent advances in land cover and land use changes studies in the Central Asia region. These include:

1. Inaccessibility of existing data (such as topographic maps, land use/land cover maps, aerial photos, statistic data, literature etc.) due to governmental restrictions/sectoral barriers, discontinuity of information before and after the social reform and lack of proper system to collect/archive/search the land use information;
2. Ineffective land use management that interact which causes and/or is being affected by climate change and results in land degradation/desertification, overgrazing, deforestation, illegal forest cutting, over irrigation, salinization, soil, water and air pollution, and a general loss of ecosystem services;
3. Poorly developed academic education system that should (but does not currently) provide an opportunity of higher education, curriculum development, scholarships and fellowships supporting scientific challenges concerning land cover and land use change, and job opportunity for trained/young scientists.

To alleviate these problems it is strongly recommended:

- **To promote a culture of evidence-based policy-making**
- **To emphasize the importance of sharing data/benefits for science and society**
- **To promote capacity building/public awareness, and**
- **To improve / invest more into the academic education system.**