Land Resources

Research on land-use and land-cover changes focus on: 1) the processes that determine temporal and spatial distributions of land-cover and land-use at local, regional, and global scales; and how and how well land-use and land-cover can be projected over time scales of 5 to 50 years; and 2) how changes in land-use, management, and cover affect local, regional, and global environmental and socioeconomic conditions, including economic welfare and human health, taking socioeconomic factors and potential technological change into consideration. Specific foci will:

- identify and quantify human drivers of land-use and land-cover change;
- improve monitoring, measuring, and mapping land-use and land-cover, and the management of these data; and develop projections of land-cover and land-use change under various scenarios of climate, demographic, economic, and technological trends.