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Land Change and Ecosystem Services Management: Perspectives from the Global Land Project

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Land-use and land-cover change affects climate, hydrology, biodiversity and the ability of biological systems to support human needs. The need for an integrated approach for understanding human actions as the central driving force of land system dynamics led to the emergence of a new discipline of Land Change Science (LCS). This presentation examines the fundamental components of LCS with a focus on the Ecosystem Services Management in Asia (ECOSMAG) project. Policy makers find it hard to incorporate the benefits derived from ecosystems into decision-making because of the difficulty in characterizing ecosystem services, and also due to governance and compensation problems. Building on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, ECOSMAG develops a framework for analyzing ecosystem services, governance structure vis-a-vis the delivery of ecosystem services and identifying the trade-offs and appropriate incentives for ecosystem services conservation. Case studies in China, Indonesia, and Thailand provide policy insights into enhancing long-term sustainable use and conservation of services from ecosystems in Asia.

Keywords: Land-use change, Ecosystem services, Participatory analysis