

Advances in Land Use and Land Cover Mapping

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Message from the Guest Editors

Land use and land cover (LULC) information underpins our understanding of the earth, and our impact on it. While often referred to interchangeably, land use and cover are two distinct concepts. Land cover refers to the physical surface of the earth, while land use refers to the purpose to which the land is committed. Whilst distinct, the two components of land information are intrinsically linked, and can be mapped and analyzed both separately and together in order to highlight linkages between land use, cover and management, as well as land transition.

LULC data support policy making, strategic planning, and monitoring, with an increasing focus on climate change and sustainability. LULC change plays a critical role in the global cycle of greenhouse gases. Given the applied nature of LULC information, and the increasing need for research methodologies to be translated and applied in governmental policy and decision making, it is critical to evaluate the reliability of such data (and the means and technologies used to create it) in order to ensure that strong evidence-based decisions are made.



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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