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Remote Sensing of Land Cover Change, Degradation, and Impacts on Environment in South/Southeast Asia

Guest Editors:

Dr. Krishna Vadrevu
Earth Science Office, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL, USA

Prof. Dr. Chris Justice
Department of Geographical Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA

Dr. Garik Gutman
NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC, USA

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Message from the Guest Editors

The major causes of land-cover change (LCC) and degradation in several Asian countries are the rapid increase in population and economic development. Inappropriate land-use systems and land-tenure policies are further importance causes of land degradation. The other drivers of LCC and degradation include government policies, inappropriate land management, etc. Variability in weather, climate and socioeconomic factors also affect LCC and degradation. Some of the impacts of LCC include the disruption of biogeochemical cycles, radiation and the energy balance of the surface–atmosphere interface. Spatially explicit data are essential to documenting LCC and degradation. It is very important to understand and quantify the status and causes of LCC and degradation. Due to its synoptic, multi-temporal, multi-spectral and repetitive coverage capabilities, remote sensing can be effectively used to quantify LCC degradation and associated impacts. Furthermore, in South/Southeast Asian countries, there is an increasing need to develop consistent regional LUCC products useful for environmental impact assessment and policymaking.

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Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Prasad S. Thenkabail
Senior Scientist (ST), U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), USGS Western Geographic Science Center (WGSC), 2255, N. Gemini Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86001, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Remote Sensing Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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