



Aims

The aim of our topic this year is to draw connections between food security, biodiversity and bioenergy and to use the meetings to think about the research pathways that will help us to prepare for and address the challenges we will face in the future.

This is the third meeting in the series and this month, the three witnesses will help us to think about the kinds of data sets we can use to look at land use and land use change and links between these and policy implementation.

Agenda

All the witnesses will give a 10 minute introduction and their perspective on the two core questions followed a general discussion:

- 5:00pm Welcome by the Chair and an introduction to the topic
Each witness gives a short introduction and thoughts about the questions (10 mins)
Questions and beginning the open discussion
- 6:00pm Coffee break
Continue the discussion in three groups and then come together for final thoughts
- 7:15pm Reception and dinner, which will include a working session

Witnesses

Dr Alan Belward	Head of the Land Resource Management Unit at the Institute for Environment and Sustainability, European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC) in Ispra, Italy
Dr Jon Hutton	Director of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge
Dr Lucas Joppa	Head the Conservation Science Research Unit and a scientist in the eScience Group at Microsoft Research, based at the Microsoft Redmond Campus, USA

Questions

This month, the witnesses have all been asked two core questions:

- 1) What do you perceive as being the main gaps in our knowledge?
- 2) What would you include in the 'next generation' of research questions?

Each of these questions will be posed to everyone and their answers will then be used as a springboard for further discussion. The main points raised will then sent to everyone to use as a starting point for the next meeting.

Witnesses

Dr Alan Belward

Head of the Land Resource Management Unit at the Institute for Environment and Sustainability, European Commission's Joint Research Center (JRC) in Ispra, Italy

Alan Belward leads one of eight Units within JRC, which provides information for European and International policies aiming to balance competing land-use demands whilst securing access to natural resources and maintaining ecosystem services.

He received the BSc degree in Plant Biology from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1981, and MPhil and PhD degrees in remote sensing studies of vegetation, both from Cranfield University's School of Agriculture Food and Environment in 1986 and 1993 respectively. In the 1990s he co-chaired the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme's Land Cover Working Group and chaired the Committee for Earth Observing Satellites (CEOS) Working Group on Calibration and Validation. From 2002 to 2006 he chaired the Global Climate Observing System's (GCOS) Terrestrial Panel and in 2009 he was appointed to the GCOS Steering Committee. He is a member of the NASA and USGS Landsat Data Continuity Mission Science Team and the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 Mission Advisory Group and is also a visiting lecturer at the Technical University of Vienna.

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Dr Jon Hutton

Director of the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge

Jon Hutton received a doctorate in crocodile ecology from the University of Zimbabwe in 1984. During the next 20 years he held a number of senior management positions in that country, encompassing the government, NGO and private sectors. During the early 1990s he was one of the Zimbabwe Government's negotiators to the biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

In 1999, he moved to Europe to work as the Executive Director of Resource Africa and Fauna & Flora International's Director for Africa before joining UNEP. Jon has produced over 50 papers, books and conference proceedings covering issues such as conservation policy; wildlife management; protected area management; community-based natural resource management; the sustainable use of natural resources; and the relationship between conservation and poverty. In recognition of his academic interests he was appointed a Senior Member of Hughes Hall College, Cambridge in 2004 and Honorary Professor of Sustainable Resource Management at the University of Kent in 2007.

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Dr Lucas Joppa

Head the Conservation Science Research Unit and a scientist in the eScience Group at Microsoft Research, based at the Microsoft Redmond Campus, USA

Lucas Joppa's research combines science, policy, and tools & technology. This ranges from quantifying the impacts of conservation actions to unraveling the complexities of species interactions and mapping where species are being discovered - and going extinct. He embraces the challenge of predicting outcomes for ecological communities under an increasingly uncertain environment, and unite robust ecological theory, social considerations, and innovative distributed data collection systems to achieve effective environmental conservation.

He completed his PhD in Ecology from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. He is currently an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Kent's Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and an Honorary Conservation Fellow at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). In 2013, he received the Society for Conservation Biology's 'Early Career Award'.

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