

IHDP Open Meeting '08
16-19 October 2008, New Dehli, India

Call for Contributions to a Session Proposed by

UGEC

Session Title:

Forecasting the Magnitude, Location, and Form of Urban Growth

Deadline for Submission: December 23rd, 2007

Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities. It is clear that the development of urban areas hold the key to many of the challenges we face in our interactions with the environment. Forecasting the magnitude, location, and form of urban growth is essential in predicting the responses needed to successfully organize urban sprawl, reduce vulnerabilities, protect against climate change, and natural disaster. Better understanding of the evolution of urban form and urban social-ecological systems at a time of a multiplication of initiatives for sustainable development would significantly help in improving decision-making capacities regarding land-use, transportation and environmental policies. In order to sustainably cope with the high urban population growth projected for at least the next 25 years (United Nations, 2004), the assessment of environmental and socioeconomic impacts of urban planning and policies through quantitative science and policy oriented models are a necessity.

While estimates regarding the growth of urban population are available, we don't know how they will compare to the extent, rate of growth and the pattern of physical urban growth. The only way to successfully evaluate the growing population, land use change, and biodiversity loss will be by the use of state of the art models and equipment in urban growth modeling. Discussions will be held regarding these state of the art systems in urban growth forecasting and their utility for practitioners, planners, policymakers, conservation agencies and other stakeholders who have an interest in identifying the likely location, size and shape of future urban growth. This session will additionally facilitate discussions among users and developers of models and parties responsible for the generation of required data to assess the gap in needs and create solutions to fill them.

Being able to develop solutions for the demographic challenges we face in the near future is paramount for sustainable living conditions for human beings. The identification of accurate forecasting utilities to help facilitate dynamic policy making decisions could significantly impact the evolution of global ecological-urban systems in developing and expanding world cities. Attending this session is essential for all practitioners, urban growth modelers, urban climate modelers, planners and other stakeholders (conservationists or developers) because the outcomes of this session will include information about future urban land use, the shape and magnitude of global environmental change, policy relevant to urban growth and solutions to rapid urbanization and additional

steps that can be taken to bring growth forecasting relevance to policy making and decision makers.

Session Title:

Forecasting the Magnitude, Location, and Form of Urban Growth

Session Abstract:

The Urbanization and Global Environmental Change project is organizing a session focused on the intersection of urban growth modeling and (global) environmental change to help create solutions for future demographic challenges.

The purpose of the session is to discuss the state of the art systems in urban growth forecasting and their utility for practitioners, planners, policymakers, conservation agencies and other stakeholders who have an interest in identifying the likely location, size and shape of future urban growth; also, to facilitate a discussion among users and developers of models (and parties responsible for the generation of required data) to assess the gap in needs.

The session will present aspects of modeling and forecasting urban growth across the globe. Questions to be discussed during the session include: what do we know about the future urban landscape and how it relates to other land uses? How will the magnitude and shape of urban areas affect and be affected by global environmental change? What is the policy relevance of urban growth models; do they provide solutions to problems associated with rapid urbanization in the face of global environmental change? Are there steps to be taken that make urban growth forecasting more policy relevant?

Key Words:

Forecasting; urban growth, climate change, modeling, Prediction, Conservation, Vulnerability, Population, and Land Use.

Participation:

Interested researchers are asked to submit a 250 word abstract of their proposed contribution. The abstract should outline methodologies and data sources (if applicable) and state the contribution of the paper to the body of literature on the subject. The submission should be accompanied by a CV of each author/co-author. Abstracts and CVs should be submitted by email to fragkias@asu.edu.

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