



# Land Change: global change in local places

**Peter Verburg** 



#### Human influence on the environment (Ellis et al., 2010)



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#### Act now to stop land grabs



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# The land rush is real

#### In many countries a significant share of agricultural land is concerned



### landportal.info/landmatrix



Land Matrix landportal.info/landmatrix



# Local land change in a telecoupled world



# Telecoupling



Environmental Studies

J. Liu, unpublished

# **Agricultural production**







### **Expansion: land cover change**



# **Food security**







### **Agricultural intensity (cropland areas)**





Based on Neumann et al. (2010), Agricultural Systems 103, 316-326.











Rounsevell et al., 2012

# **Food security**







#### **Forest transition: changing forest/population relations**





Kauppi et al., 2006

#### **Market influence**



Environmental Studies

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### Spatial trade-offs: a scenario study 2000-2030





IVM Institute for Environmental Studies Verburg et al., 2008 Annals of Regional Science

Banse et al., 2010 Biomass and Bioenergy <sup>21</sup>

# **Spatial trade-offs**









# Land Sparing vs. Land Sharing



- Land sparing: human activities very intensive on 'restricted' area.
  - High impact on ecosystem services in affected area
  - Low impact on ecosystems in remaining area
  - ⊗ Spatial/temporal spill-over / re-bound effects
  - ⊗ Not all ecosystem services can be 'transported'



- Land sharing: multi-functional land use
  - Based on synergies in ecosystem service provision
  - Extensive land uses, requiring large areas
  - ⊗ Large land requirements, no 'wilderness'















# Land use intensity



# A historic perspective









Kaplan et al, 2009 Standard scenario





Kaplan et al, 2009 Technology scenario

Pongratz et al. (2008) Maximum scenario

Klein Goldewijk et al. (2010) HYDE 3.1

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Fraction of gridcell under natural vegetation

















Environmental Studies

What does (land use) history teach us?





#### Simulation experiment SOC stocks and land use history



### Luse change Netherlands 1900-2000







#### Carbon stocks and 'age' of agricultural conversion



# **Explaining variables of soil carbon stocks**

Independent variables	Site				
	Nieuwleusen	Achterhoek	Veluwe	Den Bosch	All sites
	Associations with SOC content – Determinants separately				
Site factors					
Loam content	23%	11%	6%	5%	0%
Median sand grain size	6%	1%	4%	6%	2%
Elevation	2%	8%	8%	4%	0%
Groundwater class	5%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Soil type	21%	6%	2%	12%	10%
Geomorphology	0%*	6%	3%	8%	4%
Land use history					
Reclamation type	14%	1%	2%	3%	17%
Land use 1900	15%	4%	3%	8%	2%
Reclamation age	12%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Present-day land use and management					
Land use 1999	0% *	1%	1%	3%	1%
Permanent grassland	0% *	0% *	1%	1% *	0%
OC <sub>eff</sub> input by crops per zip code region	19%	4%	0%*	1%	2%
OC <sub>eff</sub> input by livestock per zip code region	16%	0%*	1%	3%	2%
OC <sub>eff</sub> input by crops per municipality					6%
OC <sub>eff</sub> input by livestock per municipality					9%

# Improved soil carbon inventory accounting for land use history









#### Schulp et al., 2013

# Learning from history: validating land change models



Land use type specific conversion settings -How likely is a land use type to change

-Which conversions are allowed



### **Model results**



# Lessons from historic land use analysis

- Large legacy effects
- Path dependence (e.g. cities)
- Large transitions have occurred due to changing humanenvironment interactions, fluctuations in land use
- Learn from areas with long-term sustainable production
- Telecoupling is not new (colonial period), but interactions are more intense and faster
- Demand for 'services' from the land is unprecedented
- Model predictions based on historic trends likely to be irrealistic





#### Landcover - 2100 - B1



#### Asselen & Verburg, 2012 GCB

#### **Cropland Systems**

Cropland; extensive with few livestock Cropland; extensive with bovines, goats & sheep Cropland; extensive with pigs & poultry Cropland; medium intensive with few livestock Cropland; medium intensive with bovines, goats & sheep Cropland; medium intensive with pigs & poultry Cropland; intensive with few livestock Cropland; intensive with few livestock Cropland; intensive with bovines, goats & sheep Cropland; intensive with bovines, goats & sheep

#### Mosaic cropland and grassland systems

- Mosaic cropland and grassland with bovines, goats & sheep
- Mosaic cropland and grassland with pigs & poultry
- Mosaic cropland (extensive) and grassland with few livestock
- Mosaic cropland (medium intensive) and grassland with few livestoc
- Mosaic cropland (intensive) and grassland with few livestock

#### Mosaic cropland and forest systems

- Mosaic cropland and forest with pigs & poultry
- Mosaic cropland (extensive) and forest with few livestock
- Mosaic cropland (medium intensive) and forest with few livestock
- Mosaic cropland (intensive) and forest with few livestock



Increase in crop production







Land change is a CONSEQUENCE of global change

Land change is a major CAUSE of global change

Land change is a possible SOLUTION to global change

Land governanceLand system architecture





# Rural development potentials

(Van Berkel and Verburg, Land use policy)













# **Key messages**



- Land change happens at the interface of the human and physical earth system
- Contextualized, place-based land governance solutions are needed to meet the sustainable development targets of the millenium development goals
- Local solutions adapted to the global context are needed
- Land science can act as a platform integrating research efforts, connecting different perspectives across scales



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Thank you!



# Global Land Project 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Science Meeting

Land Transformations: between global challenges and local realities

Berlin, Germany March 19-21, 2014

www.glp-osm2014.org

#### Call for <u>Session proposals</u> closes on January 31st, 2013



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