Land Use/Land Cover Change Driving Forces and Impacts

Chair: Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, *stefania\_dumitrascu@yahoo.com*

Land use/cover change have become the main component of global change through their unprecedented consequences on local, regional, and global climate processes, biodiversity, ecosystems and the services they provide.

Understanding land use/cover change (LUCC) dynamics and driving forces are essential to facilitate the development of sustainable management practices and to predict future changes accurately.

The global driving forces for land use/land cover change are primarily related to population growth and urbanization, economic and technological development, climate change impacts, the transition to sustainable energy use, which act differently at local and regional levels.

Numerous studies have focused on LUCC drivers and their effects at various spatial scales, e.g.: impacts of socio-economic and political changes, urban expansion, agricultural transformation, deforestation, extreme events impacts, changes of ecosystem services.

The aim of this session is to promote the study of land-use and land cover change focusing on its key driving forces and various theoretical, methodological and applied aspects in countries with diversified economic, social and political systems. The main topics for contributions are:

* LUCC and associated key driving forces
* Data and methods for LUCC evaluation
* Implications of LUCC for spatial management and sustainable development
* LUCC and environmental changes
* Future LUCC – modelling and prediction

**Keywords:** Land use/cover change, driving forces, data and methods for LUCC evaluation, spatial management, environmental changes, future LUCC – modelling and prediction

Chair personal data:

Monica Dumitrascu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, *stefania\_dumitrascu@yahoo.com*

*Passport no: 060723625*

*Phone: +40721243489*

*Bucharest, Romania*